

June 2, 2014

Assemblyman (or woman) _____
Regulated Professions and Independent Authorities Committee
Email:
Fax:
Phone:

RE: A1648 Physical Therapists
Please delete the term: "intramuscular techniques"

Dear _____,

I am writing to request the removal of any and all terms that reference the terminology "intramuscular techniques", also known as dry needling, or any other terminology that can be construed as dry needling or acupuncture, which describes the piercing of the skin by an acupuncture needle, or other type of needle, from the definition of physical therapy. It is an invasive technique that should be performed by those, who are licensed by the State of New Jersey to perform acupuncture.

The use of these techniques would constitute the practice of acupuncture and indeed, the New Jersey Acupuncture Examining Board has ruled that the practice of dry needling by a physical therapist is the unlicensed practice of acupuncture.

Physical therapists or other licensed healthcare practitioners who wish to practice acupuncture are welcome to do so with the training and requirements currently outlined in the statute that regulates acupuncture.

To allow the practice of this invasive technique flies in the face of the laws that you are bound to uphold and puts health consumers at risk due to sub-standard training. All licensed healthcare professionals should be fully trained in any procedure they are performing.

Please oppose this bill unless this terminology is eliminated from the definition of physical therapy.

Sincerely,