



Notice

Date: January 16, 2015

Re: Proposed Rules presented to the Rules Review Commission

On January 15, 2015, the Rules Review Commission voted unanimously to approve 19 rules submitted by the Board to be effective February 1, 2015. (*Updated rules will be posted on the Board's website next week.*) The RRC also voted 5-3 to reject the Board's proposed rule on dry needling due to insufficient statutory authority. However, based on an Advisory Letter from the Attorney General's Office submitted to the Acupuncture Licensing Board in 2011, and the opinion of the RRC Staff Counsel reviewing the NCBPTE rules for statutory compliance, dry needling is within the scope of practice of physical therapy. Therefore, in light of the RRC action, and in view of the fact the Board has already determined that dry needling is within the scope of the practice of physical therapy, the Board believes physical therapists can continue to perform dry needling so long as they possess the requisite education and training required by N.C.G.S. § 90-270.24(4), but there are no regulations to set the specific requirements for engaging in dry needling. With regard to the establishment of specific criteria for education and training, the Board's Position Statement on Intramuscular Manual Therapy and Dry Needling is not considered to be a rule, and physical therapists must therefore comply with 21 NCAC 48C .0101(a).