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Accreditation is the process of validation for educational programs. Accreditation provides minimum standards for:

- Number of hours of a qualifying program
- Topics covered by a qualifying program
- In the case of healthcare, attention to patient safety and public welfare
- Measuring the competence of students completing the program

There is currently no accreditation process for courses or instructors of trigger point dry needling in the US. As a result, what these courses teach and who teaches them varies wildly.

#### Content

- Within the industry, there are no standards regarding number of hours in a trigger point dry needling course.
- There are no standards regarding content covered in a trigger point dry needling course.
- There are no established metrics to measure the competence of a student after they complete their class.

#### Educators

- Two continuing education companies require 4 or 5 years of experience in trigger point dry needling before becoming an instructor, but that is the exception to the rule.
- Most programs have no set requirements for instructors in their programs.
- There is no way of knowing where the founders of these programs got their trigger point dry needling training
- These classes could be taught by anyone. There is no regulated minimum requirement or governance of any kind on the teaching of dry needling.

**It is misleading and irresponsible for the BOPTE to assert that they are in a position to ensure the safety of trigger point dry needling by physical therapists in Montana.** Without accreditation the BOPTE simply cannot know what is being taught in these courses or who is teaching them. This is a public safety issue and one we cannot afford to ignore.