

Dear Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

My name is Dr. Lisa Larson and I am writing to ask you to keep dry needling in the scope of practice for the chiropractic profession.

Dry needling has been a very effective and beneficial therapy for our patients. It has allowed us to resolve pain in patients who are not fully responding to the manual therapies we typically offer. It has been so effective that several patients have been able to postpone surgical interventions they thought were inevitable.

Myofascial Trigger Point dry needling is utilized to neutralize dysfunctional soft tissue which is a big part of our practice as musculoskeletal specialists. Keeping joints in the body healthy by restoring and maintaining correct alignment and motion requires balanced and healthy muscles and because of this we have found dry needling to be an important option in achieving that balance. Dry needling expands our ability to offer our patients easy and less expensive options to resolve their complaints.

I have been asked by patients if dry needling is the same as acupuncture, it is not. Dry needling specifically deals with myofascial trigger points and soft tissue dysfunction. Acupuncture is based on an Oriental complete system of healing and addresses many health issues such as anxiety, depression, insomnia, infertility, and pain. Dry needling and acupuncture are two different entities and have been recognized as such by the distinct and separate CPT codes designated for these services.

I respectfully request you keep dry needling in the chiropractic scope of practice so that we may continue to offer our fellow Montanans the best healthcare possible.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Larson DC

Larson Chiropractic Clinic

Billings, MT