

**From:** [Dustin Rising](#)  
**To:** [Murdo, Patricia](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Dry needling and Chiropractic  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 25, 2020 3:27:18 PM

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Dear Members of the Economic Affairs Interim Committee, my name is Dr. Dustin Rising, D.C. and I am writing to ask you to keep dry needling in the scope of practice for the chiropractic profession. Please do not renew your objection to the rule, as passed by the State Board, and I want to explain the reasoning for my request.

I am writing to let you know the importance of dry needling in my chiropractic practice, as well as my views on dry needling and acupuncture. I have been in practice for over 10 years and now am dry needling for over a year. I have been waiting for a therapy like this for a very long time to be available to utilize for my patients, and its results for my patients are even better than I would have imagined! There are a lot of soft tissue modalities for chiropractic, but I have never come across a more helpful therapy yet in my 10+ years in practice or throughout my education.

As far as acupuncturists claiming that our education on dry needling is inadequate, I would like to first explain that we, as dry needling physicians, do not claim to have any of the training or expertise in the field of "acupuncture". When it comes to treating visceral conditions such as weight loss, infertility, stress/anxiety, blood pressure, energy work, allergies, GI disorders, nausea, etc. with a long list past that; we do not claim to nor treat ANY of those conditions with dry needling. We also do not diagnose or treat through the use of meridians, acupressure points, or the body's energy or chi. Dry needling is based strictly on anatomy and pain. This not only distinguishes acupuncture from dry needling, but also still makes a great referral source to an acupuncturist for any of these conditions to be treated with a more natural approach vs. a medical approach.

When it comes to musculoskeletal pain and conditions treated with dry needling, that is where my training over 7.5 years of a combined bachelors degree in science and doctorate in chiropractic come in. Our field of training, particularly in chiropractic school, has more anatomy classroom hours than the average medical school, and is very extensive and specific for treating pain and musculoskeletal conditions. In treating musculoskeletal pain and conditions with dry needling, I feel extremely confident in my practice due to my prior years of training to be a chiropractor, in addition to Dr. Fishkin's course as well.

If the acupuncturists do not think we should be doing treatment with dry needling for conditions we already treat and understand, then it is coming down to the use of the tool itself (needles). This would be similar to chiropractors claiming that a carpenter cannot use their hands to build a house, because we use our hands to adjust a patient's spine. Or more similarly, and more relevantly, restricting a physical therapist or massage therapist the use of their hands to render treatment because that is the primary basis of chiropractic care.

In my practice today, I still refer out a lot to acupuncturists and have a student in the acupuncture program that is planning on working for me in our office when she graduates as well. She understands the benefit of both dry needling and acupuncture, as well as the distinct differences in diagnosis and treatment. She wants solely what is the best treatment for the patient and appreciates that I do dry needling and sees the importance and value to our patients.

Thank you so much for taking your time to read this email and please consider the substantial benefits that my patients, and all potential future patients have with dry needling by a licensed chiropractor in Montana.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dustin Rising, D.C.

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