



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Chiropractic Examiners

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Intramuscular Therapy-Dry Needling Position Statement

Intramuscular trigger point therapy has become a very popular modality. It is commonly used by chiropractic physicians and physiotherapists. This procedure, often called dry needling, has become popular because of its ability to provide fast relief for a variety of musculoskeletal complaints. It is a safe technique when performed by a trained provider. The American Chiropractic Association and the American Physical Therapy Association collaborated and created a set of common procedure terminology codes, which were adopted by the American Medical Association for use in 2020.

It is the opinion of the Board that intramuscular therapy is a treatment that falls in the scope of practice of chiropractic in South Carolina, Section 25-5 (E)(1)(g) and (2)(f). Further, it is the position of the Board that licensed South Carolina chiropractic physicians who have completed training in intramuscular therapy may administer this modality. The Board understands that Licensees are using their doctoral skills for examination and diagnosis. Licensees are responsible for, (A). Completing the formal training necessary to become competent in administering dry needling prior to treating patients with this modality and, (B) for retaining proof of successful completion of such training while practicing in South Carolina. The Board recommends that Licensees complete a minimum of twelve (12) hours of dry needling training before introducing it into their Practice.