



Policy Certified Practice in Dry Needling <hr/> Physical Therapy	Replaces former policy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title: Performing Dry Needling <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	Date Effective: 2026-05-20
	Last Update: 2026-05-20
Contact: Chris Smerdon - Director, Licensure	

Policy Statement

A Physical Therapist seeking to become certified, for the first time, to perform dry needling between April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026, must:

- submit the certified application form
- have at least 2 years (3,900 practice hours) of physical therapy practice experience
- have successfully completed a course listed in Appendix A: Dry Needling Education Programs
- pay the applicable fee

1. Policy Rationale and Purpose

The Health and Care Professionals Regulation permits a physical therapist to perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by inserting solid filament needles for the purpose of reducing inflammation or managing pain (dry needling) if they are certified.

This policy sets out the requirements and conditions for certification and authorized practice, during the transitional period, ensuring that dry needling is provided safely, ethically, and in alignment with professional standards and regulatory expectations.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all CHCPBC Physical Therapy licensees.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

Licensure Team members

Licensure Team members review and approve applications for certified practice in accordance with this policy and any relevant bylaws.



Registrar

The Registrar approves the certified practice application form.

Licence Committee

The Licence Committee consider requests for extension of time allowed to complete a certification program.

4. Legal and Regulatory Authority

This policy is linked to the following legislation and regulatory documents:

- Health and Care Professionals Regulation, s.51(1)
- CHCPBC Bylaw 7.0 Certified Practice
- Ethics and Practice Standards: Restricted Activities and Certifications

5. Other Relevant Policies and Documents

This policy is linked to the following other relevant policies and documents:

- Application to Perform Dry Needling form
- Dry Needling Program Evaluation Criteria

6. Key Partnerships

None identified at this time.

7. Definitions

Dry needling means performing a procedure on tissue below the dermis by inserting solid filament needles for the purpose of reducing inflammation or managing pain; includes a range of approaches, such as acupuncture, trigger point dry needling, and intramuscular stimulation.

8. Process Check

The following documents have been consulted and applied to this policy.

- Policy Development Framework (required)
- Anti-Discrimination Measures (S14/15 HPOA) (required if applicable)
- Health Standards Organization BC Cultural Safety and Humility Standard policy best practices (required if applicable)
- Safe Spaces Playbook (required if applicable)
- In Plain Sight Report and Recommendations (required if applicable)



9. Resources/References

None identified at this time.

Reviewed by the Board on:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Reviewed by the Registrar/Deputy Registrar on: 2026-05-20		<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Date Approved 2026-05-20	Approved By <input type="checkbox"/> Board <input type="checkbox"/> Committee OR Name Joanie Bouchard Title Deputy Registrar / Vice-CEO	
Date Effective 2026-05-20	Revision history	Last Updated: 2026-05-20
Next Review 2028-05-20		Previous Update:
Drafted by: Name <i>Licensure Policy Team</i>		



Appendices

Appendix A

Dry Needling Education Programs (approved July 26, 2023)

Acupuncture Canada Certification in Dry Needling, including both: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Dry Needling Program – Level I• The Dry Needling Program – Level II
Acupuncture Canada Certification (ACC) Level 1
Acupuncture: The Art and the Science (Manitoba) – A Comprehensive Introduction to Acupuncture: The Art and The Science
Evidence in Motion: Functional Dry Needling Weekend Intensives (three days each), including all: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functional Dry Needling Level 1• Dry Needling: Clinical Integration• Functional Dry Needling Level 2 (Effective date: August 1, 2023)
Foundations Health Education – Modern Dry Needling ANIMS (formerly ANIMS-1)
McMaster University – Contemporary Medical Acupuncture
On Point Physiotherapy: On Point Needling – Comprehensive Dry Needling (Effective date: August 1, 2023)
OPPQ Puncture Physiothérapique avec Aiguilles Sèches: Cours de Base (Effective date: December 21, 2022)
Smart Seminars Certification in Biomedical Dry Needling
UBC Gunn IMS Certification Course
Uplands Physiotherapy Clinic: Dry Needling Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Level 1 – Extremities• Level 2 – Spine