



College of **HEALTH AND CARE PROFESSIONALS OF BC**

Certification Program: Dry Needling

The *Health Professions and Occupations Act's* [Health and Care Professionals Regulation](#) authorizes certified physical therapists to perform a procedure on tissue below the dermis by inserting solid filament needles for the purpose of reducing inflammation or managing pain.

The College uses the following definition when discussing dry needling.

“Dry needling is a broad term that refers to a treatment technique that uses solid filament needles to puncture the skin for therapeutic purposes. It includes a range of approaches, such as acupuncture, trigger point dry needling, intramuscular stimulation, or similar treatments used by numerous healthcare professionals.”

– The Safe Practice of Dry Needling in Alberta. Health Quality Council of Alberta, 2014

A full licensee in good standing may apply to be certified to perform this restricted activity if they successfully complete the following requirements within 3 years of applying for the dry needling certification.

Pre-requisites

Practice as a physical therapist for at least 2 years and have reported at least 3900 practice hours to CHCPBC.

Course Requirements

Dry needling course options currently approved by CHCPBC:

- Acupuncture Canada Certification in Dry Needling – Dry Needling Level 1 and Level 2 (Must complete two courses)
- Acupuncture Canada Certification, 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 (Must complete all three courses, with three 3-day version of each course; only accepted if completed on or after August 1, 2023)
 - Functional Dry Needling Level 1
 - Dry Needling: Clinical Integration
 - Functional Dry Needling Level 2
- Foundations Health Education Modern Dry Needling ANIMS (formerly ANIMS-1)
- McMaster University – Contemporary Medical Acupuncture

- On Point Physiotherapy – On Point Needling- Comprehensive Dry Needling (Must complete all three components; only accepted if completed on or after August 1, 2023)
 - Lower Quadrant
 - Upper Quadrant
 - Two individual modules /weekend courses each with online components
- OPPQ Puncture Physiothérapique avec Aiguilles Sèches: Cours de Base
- Smart Seminars Certification in Biomedical Dry Needling
- UBC Gunn IMS (Certification) Course
- Uplands Physiotherapy Clinic – Dry Needling Canada Courses Level 1 and 2

Course Criteria

- Courses must be offered at least annually in Canada
- Participants must be registered health professionals
- Dry needling must be within scope in the participant's home jurisdiction
- Instructor's training must have met the course criteria herein
- Instructors must have at least 5 years experience in the approach they are instructing
- Includes a total of at least 100 hours of instruction, including online study
- Hours of instruction must include at least 30 hours of hands-on clinical instruction
- Student:Instructor ratio maximum 8:1
- Must provide detail on how participants are assessed
- Must provide a sample course completion certificate
- Course content must include:
 - Acupuncture points (where relevant)
 - Integration of anatomy, physiology, microbiology, pathology
 - Needling skills, including safe practice
 - Infection control
 - Emergency preparedness and adverse event response
 - Clinical reasoning

CHCPBC References

[Bylaws, section 7](#)

[Ethics and Practice Standards](#)