

APTA Massachusetts strongly opposes H.2415: An Act Relative to Safer Treatment

H.2415 is nothing more than a thinly-veiled attempt by advocates to use the legislature to limit a patient's ability to choose a safe, well-established service provided by physical therapists in the Commonwealth.

Dry needling is practiced safely by physical therapists across nearly all U.S. states. This lack of risk is demonstrated by the fact that no major malpractice insurers impose added requirements or cost to cover providers performing this procedure. The proposed legislation would isolate Massachusetts from national standards and ultimately restrict patient access to non-pharmacologic pain management options.

A 2015 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy analysis found that 86% of the competencies needed for dry needling are already included in entry-level physical therapist education. The remaining 14%, related specifically to the needling technique itself, is gained through post-professional education.

The significant continuing education hours required to practice dry needling outlined in this bill ignore the fundamental PT education and would unnecessarily delay or prevent implementation of a safe, evidence-based intervention that can reduce reliance on opioids and improve patient outcomes.

We urge you to oppose H.2415: An Act Relative to Safer Treatment, to allow patients in the Commonwealth access to this safe and effective treatment



Why Oppose H.2415

- The clear intention of this bill is to make it cost-prohibitive for physical therapists to meet the bill's requirements instead of basing requirements in patient safety and science.
- If passed, patients in the Commonwealth will struggle to find physical therapists able to provide this service.
- The entry-level PT education covers 86% of the necessary competencies and numerous post-professional courses are available for PTs to develop the rest.

[APTA MA's Guidelines for Practice of Dry Needling can be found here.](#)

The APTA MA is a non-profit professional association, representing over 2,800 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.