



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Medical Board

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Executive Director
Health Professional Regulatory Board

Re: Chiropractic "Dry Needling" Rule and Visiting Acupuncturists

Dear Executive Director:

In July, the Oregon Court of Appeals issued an Order suspending the practice of "dry needling" by chiropractors in the state of Oregon.

The Oregon Board of Chiropractic Examiners (OBCE) adopted an administrative rule on "dry needling" in June 2011. The acupuncturist association then challenged the rule in the Court of Appeals. The Court found that the association is "reasonably likely to prevail on judicial review" because "it appears, dry needling is substantially the same as the insertion of needles treatment modality of acupuncture."

The Order Staying the Administrative Rule remains in effect until the Court reviews the OBCE's authority to adopt a rule regulating the practice of "dry needling."

The Oregon Medical Board (OMB) regulates the practice of acupuncture. Further, any practitioner visiting the state of Oregon to demonstrate acupuncture must be approved by the OMB at least two weeks prior to the seminar, conference, or workshop where the demonstration will occur. (See OAR 847-070-0033)

It has come to the OMB's attention that "dry needling" classes have been advertised as being offered in Oregon to various licensed health professionals. These classes are advertised for both initial certification in "dry needling" and for continuing education credits. Neither these courses nor their instructors have been approved by the OMB.

Any questions regarding the legal status of "dry needling" or the OMB's requirements for practitioners demonstrating acupuncture within our state may be directed to the OMB at (971) 673-2700.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Haley, JD
OMB Executive Director