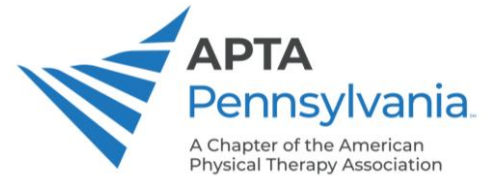


SB 485: An act amending the Pennsylvania Physical Therapy Act (Act 38 of 2008) allowing increased access to Physical Therapy and explicitly stating that dry needling is within the scope of practice of the physical therapist.



SB 485 modernizes the Pennsylvania Physical Therapist Practice Act and would accomplish the following:

- Remove the requirement that a physical therapist hold a certificate of authorization to practice physical therapy by direct access.
- Increase the time period a physical therapist is able to treat an individual without a referral from up to 30 days to up to 90 days from the first date of treatment.
- Explicitly state that Dry Needling is within the scope of practice of a physical therapist.

Facts about Direct Access:

- A recent systematic review of the literature revealed direct access to physical therapy is more cost-effective, resulting in fewer visits than physician-first access in the United States, with greater functional improvement.
- Professional liability insurers and the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy affirm that direct access does not jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of the patient/clients. Health Providers Service Organization (HPSO), the leading carrier of professional liability insurance for physical therapists in the US, states,

"Direct access is not a risk factor that we specifically screen for in the underwriting of our program nor do we charge a premium differential for physical therapists in direct access states. We currently have no specific underwriting concerns with respect to direct access for physical therapists."

Facts about Dry Needling:

- Dry needling (A.K.A. "trigger point dry needling" or "intramuscular manual therapy") is recognized by the American Physical Therapy Association and the Federations of State Boards of Physical Therapy as being within the physical therapist professional scope of practice.
- Many physical therapist education programs include dry needling in the curriculum.
- Dry needling is not acupuncture. Acupuncture refers to a form of primary health care based on the theory of energetic physiology that describes and explains the interrelationship of the body organs or functions with an associated acupuncture point or combination of points located on "channels" or "meridians."
- Dry needling is a skilled technique used to treat dysfunctions in skeletal muscle, fascia, and connective tissue; diminish pain, and reduce or restore impairments of body structure and function leading to improved activity.
- Current PA PT practice act is silent in respect to Dry Needling, which has generated confusion for some practitioners.

Please join us by supporting and consider cosponsoring SB 485.