

RESPONSES OF COLORADANS TO THE PETITION: *Protect the Public from Permanent Injury due to "Dry Needling" by Inadequately Trained PTs in Colorado*

Quote Highlights:

On March 19, 2018, **Dr. Matt Eilts, a specialized cardiac surgeon in Longmont, CO** wrote:

Like all other medical specialties, acupuncture is a skill that requires specific comprehensive training & should not be done by those who have not been through the full educational course.

Also, **Julianne DeSpain, PT, LAc., of Lakewood, CO** wrote:

As both a physical therapist AND a licensed acupuncturist, I oppose dry needling by physical therapists. The training is inadequate to ensure safety of patients. I believe dry needling does more harm than good.

Additional Important Coloradan Comments on the petition:

On March 18, 2018:

Heather McNulty of Littleton, CO said: I am a licensed professional nurse (RN) and understand the seriousness of remaining within one's scope of practice.

Robin Schiesser of Boulder, CO said: I am concerned about the unsafe practice of acupuncture by physical therapists that is being called "dry needling. I can't believe that they can have no formal education in the use of needles, take a weekend course and then begin inserting needles into people up to 5 inches long with no clinical supervision or competency exam. The public must be protected from inadequately practitioners.

Erika Schultz of Denver, CO said: Dry needling IS acupuncture and as such and to prevent safety issues physical therapists should be held to the same standards and training as acupuncturists in the state of Colorado.

Connie Presson of Denver, CO said: I'm signing because I am an L. Ac. I have benefitted greatly from Physical Therapy without dry needling. I have the greatest respect for PT, however, the training they receive is incredibly inadequate for a very invasive technique.

Noel Love of Denver, CO said: I don't agree with a weekend or two course to learn how to stick needles in people. As a Doctor of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, we have over 3000 hours of education on acupuncture. This is very dangerous to the public. Dry Needling is Acupuncture with another name.

Nancy Morgan of Grand Junction, CO said: It is dangerous for someone taking a weekend course to be able to puncture the skin with needles.

Martina Skenderova of Marble, CO said: Both the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) have made public statements that dry needling is an invasive procedure that should NOT be performed by physical therapists, but "should only be performed by practitioners with standard training and familiarity with routine use of needles in their practice, such as licensed medical physicians and licensed acupuncturists."