



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago, IL (December 1, 2011) -- Recently, Physical Therapists and other Healthcare Practitioners have been seeking to incorporate what is being termed "Dry Needling" into their patient treatment regimens in Illinois. Dry Needling is, in practice, indistinguishable from acupuncture. However, Dry Needling, as presently regulated by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, has only 24 hours of training associated with its practice. Physical Therapists, in Illinois, are allowed to practice Dry Needling on their patient populations without Clinical Training in Needle Technique and without Clean Needle Certification.

Is Dry Needling the same as Acupuncture?

Yes, according to all major state and national organizations involved in the certification, professional representation, and educational development of the field of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. Medicare agrees, and does not reimburse for Dry Needling, saying it is an Acupuncture technique and therefore not covered for reimbursement through Medicare.

The Coalition for Safe Acupuncture Practice (CSAP) is deeply concerned about the potential for patient injury that may result from treatments given by these briefly trained healthcare providers.

"Patients receiving needling cannot distinguish between Dry Needling practice and Acupuncture practice," says Jeannette Hoyt, Director of CSAP. "Patients instinctively trust their therapists and may not realize they are receiving a treatment, Dry Needling, learned by a Physical Therapist, who most likely has had very little classroom education and no clinical training in the needle technique necessary to insert needles into patients safely. That Physical Therapists are inserting needles into their patients without Clean Needle Certification while performing Dry Needling is also troubling."

Coalition for Safe Acupuncture Practice's Mission

Coalition for Safe Acupuncture Practice hopes to stimulate public and media awareness of the potential health risks associated with the practice of Dry Needling by Physical Therapists under the guidelines presently in place with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

CSAP Hosts a Public Assembly/Demonstration Event

CSAP is hosting a Public Assembly/Demonstration on Friday, December 9th, from 9am til 11am, in front of Core Fitness Center, located at 1030 W. North Ave., Chicago, IL. Dr. Alan Uretz, Dean of Chinese Medicine, Midwest College of Oriental Medicine, will be speaking at the event.

CSAP extends a cordial invitation to attend this event and learn more about Dry Needling and the public healthcare risks associated with its use.