

What's Required?

Licensing Ensures Competency

Safety is dependent upon proper training, examination and licensure



License to Practice Acupuncture

Graduate from a nationally accredited acupuncture program¹

Biomedical training, at least 1905 hours of acupuncture-specific training including 705 hours of didactic material and 660 hours of supervised clinical training

Complete clean needle training and pass examinations
Pass a four-part examination for licensure, overseen by an independent certification commission²

30 continuing education credits bi-annually, 15 of which must be acupuncture specific, to maintain licensure, overseen by the NCCAOM³



Massachusetts Drivers License

Acquire a learner's permit by scoring a minimum of 72% on written examinations

40 hours of practical driving time, under the observation of a properly licensed individual

Maintain a learner's permit and clean driving record for at least 6 months

Pass a practical examination overseen by the state Registry of Motor Vehicles

Maintain a good driving record overseen by the Department of Justice and the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles



Dry Needling (no licensing process)⁴

No required needle study

Average 24-48 hours of study, including classroom and clinical instruction

No national certification agency oversight⁵

No national standards.
No examination⁶

No continuing education requirements⁷

No national or state oversight

Dry needling in Massachusetts is the unregulated and unlicensed practice of acupuncture

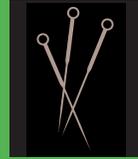


Created for the Acupuncture Society of Massachusetts by Dina Morris, Amy Mager and Linda Robinson-Hidas

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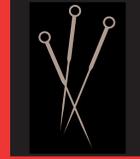
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References

(1) The Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) was established in 1982 for the express purpose of advancing acupuncture and Chinese Medicine education and the profession. The CCAOM created the accreditation Commission of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) which was first recognized by the United States Department of Education and the Council on Post Secondary Education (COPA) in 1990 for the accreditation of acupuncture programs at the master's degree level. More recently, the CCAOM has established accreditation for a doctoral program in acupuncture and Chinese medicine. [ccaom.org/aboutus.asp]

(2) The Committee on Acupuncture (COA), overseen by the Board of Registration in Medicine (BORIM), supervises the testing procedures and scope of practice for acupuncture licensure. There are five national psychometric exams, including clean needle technique, that must be passed. [mass.gov/eohhs/docs/borim/kits/acupuncture-full-kit.pdf]

(3) The National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) was established in 1982 for the purpose of ensuring competency in the acupuncture profession by overseeing certification and continuing education of acupuncturists. The NCCAOM verifies appropriate training from an approved program, including supervised clinical hours, clean needle technique and examinations. Qualified applicants are eligible to sit for exams in Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture with Point Location and Biomedicine. All NCCAOM certification programs are accredited by the National Commission for Certification Agencies. [nccaom.org/about-us/]

(4) "Dry needling" is a form of acupuncture. The American Medical Association (AMA) "recognizes dry needling as an invasive procedure and maintains that dry needling 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." [ama-assn.org/ama-adopts-new-policies-final-day-annual-meeting] At the date of publication (7-25-17), there are no national standards for dry needle training or techniques for Allied Health Professionals.

(5) The clinical instruction and exam are given by the organization or individual who taught the class. There are no national standards for teacher certification and training, curriculum, number of required classroom or clinical hours. There is no third party psychometric exam.

(6) The Board of Allied Health Professionals has taken the position that dry needling, or intramuscular therapy (IMT) is within the scope of practice for physical therapists but requires advanced training. This is an opinion held by the board and **does not** make it within the scope of practice by rule or law. [Board of Allied Health meeting transcript, June 22, 2017] The board has also chosen to **not** address a petition with evidence from The Acupuncture Society of Massachusetts (ASM) requesting they promulgate a rule that dry needling is outside the scope of practice for physical therapists. [Board of Allied Health meeting transcript, February 23, 2017]

(7) As of the publication of this document (July 25, 2017) the Board of Allied Health Professionals has not established any requirements for continuing education.

Additional Sources:

- American Society of Acupuncturists – asacu.org
- ASA Position statement on dry needling – www.asacu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/American-Society-of-Acupuncturists-Position-on-Dry-Needling-_9_14_16.pdf
- American Physical Therapy Association – apta.org
- Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles – marmv.org

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