



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

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DRY NEEDLING – Occupational Therapy

In response to inquiries regarding dry needling, the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy convened a workgroup to conduct a thorough analysis of the occupational therapy scope of practice. The workgroup consisted of several board members and both state (AKOTA) and national (AOTA) occupational therapy association representatives with consultation from the Alaska Department of Law.

Based on the workgroup recommendations, with further review by the Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, it has been determined that the current occupational therapy scope of practice description in statute 08.84.190 does not support dry needling by occupational therapists regardless of education and training. At this time, statutory change is required to perform dry needling.

The Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board in collaboration with AKOTA and AOTA are working on these changes. This process may take several years to accomplish. Please assist this effort by advocating for revisions to the Alaska occupational therapy scope of practice by reaching out to your state association.

Sincerely,

Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

As adopted at the June 16, 2023 board meeting