

Responses to some incorrect opposition

1. Opposition: The Maryland Board of Physicians maintains a certification or registry process to regulate PTs and Chiropractors. This does not exist for athletic trainers!

Response: Athletic Trainers work directly under a physician's license, and are required to submit an Evaluation and Treatment Protocol with the Board of Physicians which already require ATs and their physician to agree to specialized tasks. This is an extra level of oversight that PTs and Chiropractors do not have. In fact, the Maryland Board of Physicians worked with the MATA to determine the language to make it a specialized task as the way of confirming the educational and clinical requirements are met for the bill.

2. Opposition: The bill has been amended to make dry needling a "specialized task" so that there will be no other standard for dry needling education or requirements. This allows the athletic trainers to be able to practice dry needling with less requirements than an MD, PT, or Chiropractor.

Response: This is incorrect. The bill requires the exact same training and exact same classes as MDs, PTs, and Chiropractors. The language was drafted directly from the PT bill.

3. Opposition: Include adverse incidents from dry needling by non-acupuncturist (bonus if it's a patient you know).

Response: A dry needle safety study study found that 5.89% of cases resulted in the adverse event of bleeding. Comparatively, 9.4% of acupuncture cases result in bleeding. Additionally, serious adverse events between dry needling and acupuncture are very similar with dry needling serious adverse events less often. Dry needling results in a serious adverse event 0.01% of the time, and acupuncture results in serious adverse events 0.11% of the time.

4. Opposition: This is a major patient safety risk.

Response: As stated above, and shown in the attached safety study, it is not a major safety risk. ATs have more emergency and triage care to treat potential reactions which occur from dry needling.

In a study by the founder of one of the nations premiere dry needling certification, ATs hav 89 % of tasks required for dry needling certification covered in their baseline educational degrees compared to PTs who have 86% of the tasks covered in their baseline degrees.