

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: Resolution 7-2014 – Scope of Practice and Dry Needling

PRESENTED BY: Robert Schaaf, MD, President

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee

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1 Resolution 7-2014 - Scope of Practice and Dry Needling was introduced at the 2014 Annual  
2 Meeting of the House of Delegates by the New Hanover-Pender County Medical Society.

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4 The Resolution called for the NCMS to adopt the following:

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6 RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Medical Society supports legislation to clarify that scope of  
7 practice shall only be modified by the North Carolina General Assembly (**policy**); and be it  
8 further

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10 RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Medical Society supports legislation to clarify that dry  
11 needling is not within the scope of practice of physical therapists unless standards of education  
12 and training are set by the General Assembly at a level at least as strict as those set by the  
13 General Assembly for physicians who use acupuncture needles for similar therapeutic purposes.  
14 (**policy**)

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16 The House of Delegates voted to refer the Resolution to the Board of Directors for **study and**  
17 **report back**. The NCMS Board of Directors referred Resolution 7-2014 to the Legislative  
18 Cabinet.

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20 The first resolved is a topic that NCMS staff and the Cabinet have been watching on an ongoing  
21 basis. The NCMS continues to look for an opportunity to make this change in one provider  
22 statute. This is already NC law, but for one line of provision in the physical therapists practice  
23 act. NCMS staff is ready to address this as soon as a supportive legislator can be identified. It  
24 would be preferable that our intentions are not announced through a policy statement since it  
25 only effects one provider group.

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REPORT E

Page 2

1 The second resolution is currently being debated as a part of the redefining of the physical  
2 therapy practice act. The acupuncture community has been working to develop support for  
3 this change. NCMS staff is engaged on HB 135, but action at this time is not appropriate.

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5 The Cabinet recommends that the NCMS continue to study these issues is based more on  
6 timing of any action. No one disagreed with the general statement that standards of education  
7 and training are a good thing. NCMS staff have been requested to report back to the Cabinet  
8 on opportunities over the interim leading up to the 2016 short session of the NC General  
9 Assembly.

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11 **RECOMMENDATION**

12 That Resolution 7-2014 - Transparency in Patient Communication and Apology in the  
13 Professional Context be further studied for report back.

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Fiscal Note: No additional funding above current resources estimated. Current resources will be allocated based on the priorities of the Society and the NCMS budget.