



17th August 2016

Attention:
Physiotherapy Board of Australia

To whom it may concern

We have been teaching Introductory & Advanced Level Dry Needling courses for Physiotherapists since Jan 2013. Our courses have met the accreditation standard over 2 accreditation cycles since that time.

As I am sure you're aware the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) will cease to accredit external provider courses as of December 2016. In addition, the APA has also decided not to allow any advertising of external courses in its professional magazine, InMotion as of the same date.

After communications with the APA we understand that they intend to deliver Dry Needling and other skills within the Physiotherapy scope of practice using contracted presenters rather than continue with the existing arrangement which enables highly experienced & skilled presenters to deliver accredited courses.

While we feel that this decision is not in the best interests of Physiotherapists and the profession in general, we are unable to convince the APA otherwise. In our opinion, the new changes that the APA are implementing will lead to a lowering of safety standards and a dilution of the experience base that has been created by external providers offering a variety of quality post-graduate courses.

The new framework that the APA has developed leaves us without any accreditation from the professional association representing Physiotherapists in Australia. While we respect their decision to make these changes we are now left in an uncertain position regarding our future course delivery and the viability of offering our courses to Physiotherapists in Australia.

We would like to seek clarification from you in regard to our ability to offer Dry Needling courses to Physiotherapists given the new framework the APA has developed.



CPD Health Courses

Online learning for health professionals

w: www.cpdhealthcourses.com

e: info@cpdhealthcourses.com

We understand that the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's continuing professional development registration standard requires that Physiotherapists complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD activity.

In an effort to ensure clarity & transparency for any Physiotherapist wishing to undertake a Dry Needling course with us we are seeking confirmation of the following:

We would like to confirm that our Dry Needling Courses would still be able to contribute as a formal learning activity and CPD hours for Physiotherapists once the APA changes come into effect in January 2017.

We look forward to your response.

Dr W Mahmoud
Director
CPD Health Courses

PLEASE SEE RESPONSE FROM AHPRA BELOW

19 September 2016

Dr W Mahmoud
Director
CPD Health Courses

Via email: info@cpdhealthcourses.com


Dear Dr Mahmoud

Continuing professional development (CPD) for physiotherapists

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the courses which you offer to physiotherapists. I am pleased to provide you with the following information.

As we discussed on the phone, you are correct that physiotherapists must undertake, log and reflect upon at least 20 hours of CPD each year to meet the Physiotherapy Board of Australia's (the Board's) Continuing professional development registration standard.

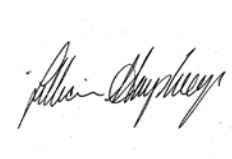
Given that the National Law under which physiotherapists are regulated in Australia protects the titles of regulated health professions (for physiotherapy the protected titles are 'physiotherapist' and 'physical therapist'), rather than the practices they undertake, the Board does not define the scope of practice of a physiotherapist. A physiotherapist may choose their own scope of practice and in accordance with the CPD registration standard, they must participate in activities that contribute directly to maintaining and improving their competence in their chosen scope of practice. For instance, if a physiotherapist chooses to practice dry needling, they would be required to provide evidence of their competence to undertake this practice if they were audited or if a complaint was made about them.



The Board cannot comment on the framework established by the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) for the provision of CPD activities. Physiotherapists may choose any CPD they wish provided they meet the requirements of the registration standard, as described above.

Thank you again for your letter and I hope that this information is useful to you.

Yours sincerely



Jill Humphreys
Executive Officer