

Intramuscular Needling Endorsement FAQ

The Board of Physical Therapy (board) and the Department of Health (department) are writing rules for the Intramuscular Needling Endorsement. These rules will clarify training and education requirements, establish a process to apply for the endorsement, and a fee to cover the costs. The intramuscular needling endorsement is right around the corner. Here's what that means for you.

When can I apply for the intramuscular needling endorsement?

The board and the department are working to set up rules following the passing of [Second Substitute House Bill \(2SHB\) 1039](#). This bill established the intramuscular needling endorsement for physical therapists in Washington state. The endorsement will tentatively be available in July 2024, depending on the rest of the rulemaking process.

Why is it taking so long for the endorsement to become available?

Rulemaking takes an average of 12-18 months to complete. The legislative bill that passed became effective in July 2023. We filed the CR-101 on July 21, 2023, and created draft language after receiving feedback. We filed the CR-102 on March 4, 2024, with the draft rule language. The board scheduled the rules hearing for the draft language for April 15. If the board adopts the rules, we can file a CR-103 by May 31 and have an effective date of final rules by July 2024.

The board will set up a process to apply for the endorsement and clarify the statute as needed through rulemaking. The department will set and create a fee for the endorsement through rulemaking.

Can I start working on the training and education requirements now?

Yes. You can work on your training and education requirements before the endorsement is available for purchase.

Can I start working on the intramuscular needling hours required under clinical review now?

Yes, you can work through those hours now. The statute requires physical therapists to complete a successful clinical review of 150 hours of at least 150 treatment sessions of intramuscular needling under a qualified provider. You must complete this qualification **before** purchasing the endorsement.

How do I find a qualified provider to supervise my training hours?

Your qualified provider must have knowledge of intramuscular needling. A qualified provider can be one of the following:

- A physician licensed under chapter [18.71](#) RCW; an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter [18.57](#) RCW; a licensed naturopath under chapter [18.36A](#) RCW; a licensed acupuncture and Eastern medicine practitioner under chapter [18.06](#) RCW; or a licensed advanced registered nurse practitioner under chapter [18.79](#) RCW;
- A physical therapist credentialed to perform intramuscular needling in any branch of the United States armed forces;
- A licensed physical therapist who currently holds an intramuscular needling endorsement; or
- A licensed physical therapist who meets the requirements of the intramuscular needling endorsement. The draft rules language clarifies that this would include physical therapists from other jurisdictions who meet the requirements for an intramuscular needling endorsement in Washington but do not currently hold an endorsement. The draft rules have not been finalized and may be subject to change.

How much is this endorsement going to cost?

The department has completed a detailed cost analysis. This has led to the proposal of a \$100 one-time fee to cover the costs of the intramuscular needling endorsement. The fee is not yet finalized through rulemaking, so it may be subject to change.

What if I have been performing intramuscular needling out of state already?

Any physical therapist performing intramuscular needling in Washington state is required to hold the endorsement, regardless of prior experience. The statute details specific training and education requirements for individuals to qualify for the endorsement.

A physical therapist licensed in Washington state and trained out of state to perform intramuscular needling may qualify for the endorsement. However, they must meet all the



requirements under [RCW 18.74.200](#) including the required time frames for completing the training and education.

This means a physical therapist trained to dry needle out of state would need to complete the requirements under [RCW 18.74.200](#). This includes 150 hours of 150 treatment sessions under clinical review completed within 18 months of completing the didactic and in-person training.

What if I trained to perform intramuscular needling in the military?

The board has proposed rules that would allow physical therapists licensed in Washington state and trained to perform intramuscular needling in any branch of the military to qualify for the endorsement. The rules require evidence of their military credentials. The rules are not yet finalized and may be subject to change.

Will I be able to delegate intramuscular needling?

No, the [statute](#) does not allow physical therapists to delegate intramuscular needling to physical therapy assistants or any other assistive personnel.