



Massage Therapist Association of Alberta
Standards of Practice

Standard 14

Category: COMMUNICATION / PUBLIC HEALTH

Ratified: September 13, 2008

Amended:

Rescinded:

Use of Personal Protective Equipment During a Treatment

Conditions:

- Given a client or a therapist with a recognizable contagious condition that might be spread by contact or inhalation during the Massage Therapy treatment.
- Given a client who requires intra-oral treatment as part of their treatment.
- Given a client or therapist with non-intact skin, or open or healing lesions that would be vulnerable in the course of providing Massage Therapy treatment.

Task:

Perform the Massage Therapy treatment:

- Without spreading infection.
- While using personal protective equipment.

Standard:

Quality / Interpersonal:

- So that you explain why the use of gloves, masks or suitable alternative or other barrier is necessary or recommended.
- So that the client is given an opportunity to ask questions.

Quality / Technical:

- So that all requirements of communicable disease control as defined by the *Infection Control Guidelines* document are met.
- So that the affected area on the client is avoided as much as possible.
- So that the affected area of the therapist's arm, hand, and/or fingers is totally covered to prevent contact.
- So that in the case of an airborne infectious disease both the therapist and the client wear a mask before, during and after treatment.

Safety:

- So that if these options are not possible or available that the treatment be altered, terminated, or postponed.
- So that the risk of allergies has been discussed and identified.

Timing:

- Before the treatment begins or as soon as the situation arises during treatment.