



Massage Therapist Association of Alberta

Standards of Practice

Standard 8

Category: COMMUNICATION / PUBLIC HEALTH

Ratified: September 13, 2008

Amended:

Rescinded:

Determine the Client's Condition by Conducting Assessment/Re-Assessment

Conditions:

Given information about a client's treatment goals, his/her health history, the client's consent and/or that on-going treatment is taking place and a scheduled reassessment is due.

Task:

Determine the client's condition by using history and observation to formulate a clinical impression and conduct (if required) a differential assessment and/or re-assessment to confirm the clinical impression.

Standard:

Quality / Interpersonal

- So that you discontinue the assessment if requested by the client.
- So that the Communication / Public Health Standards are followed if undressing or undraping is required prior to, during or following conducting the assessment/reassessment.

Quality / Technical and Safety:

- So that you refer the client to other health care professionals for conditions that you cannot assess or if the need for referral is indicated in the assessment or re-assessment, for example:
 - severe unremitting pain
 - severe pain with no history of injury
- The assessment must include an examination of the following (if indicated):
 - any acute/ sub acute and chronic conditions and/or any acute or chronic pain, so that it is described as to location, type, duration, origin, pattern, triggering phenomena, intensity and quality.
 - central nervous system lesions and/ or conditions.
 - peripheral nervous system lesions and/ or conditions.
 - range of motion of joints and muscles (active, passive, and resisting) without forcing movements beyond the client's current abilities.
 - flexibility of the soft tissues so that you identify any limitations to movement.
- So that the assessment includes evidence of tenderness, tension, temperature, tone, and texture.
- So that all testing is done bi-laterally.
- So that you identify any physical conditions that are treatable by Massage Therapy.
- So that you identify any physical conditions that may preclude general or local Massage Therapy treatment, or require treatment adaptation.
- So that the assessment must include the identification of potential risks associated with massage treatment in the presence of a contraindication.
- So that the effectiveness or completion of the treatment plan can be determined, based on the original goal of treatment.
- So that a decision can be made to continue, modify/change, or stop the treatment plan.
- So that the results of the assessment / reassessment are recorded in the clients health record as soon as possible, within 24 hours of assessment / reassessment.



Massage Therapist Association of Alberta Standards of Practice

Determine if Massage Therapy Treatment is Indicated

Conditions:

Given the client's completed health history and your assessment of the client's condition.

Task:

Determine if Massage Therapy treatment is indicated.

Standard:

Quality / Technical:

- So that if there is a contraindication to Massage Therapy, you refer the client to another qualified health care professional or that you modify the treatment so that the client is not put at risk.
- So that any referral that is made is documented in the client's health record.