



POSITION STATEMENT

CONDUCTING A CLINICAL MASSAGE THERAPY PRACTICE

Position

Massage Therapists work in both traditional and non-traditional practice settings. All MTAA members are expected to adhere to the MTAA's Standards of Practice regardless of where they practice. These guidelines have been drafted to assist members in adhering to MTAA standards by documenting the Association's presumptions relating to the operation of a Massage Therapy practice.

The MTAA promotes that Massage Therapy practice should be patient centred. This means that, to the extent possible, the patient should be in control of the experience and that the attitude of the staff and physical setting of the practice should facilitate patient comfort.

Guidelines

Physical Setting

The physical setting should be consistent with the public's expectations for an experience with a health care professional. There should be adequate space for; reception, waiting area, individual treatment, storage and washroom facilities. The office must be clean, well maintained, well lit and arranged to allow sufficient privacy for patients and staff. Patients should be offered choices regarding the use, if proposed, of aromatherapy products, oils or lotions and/or background audio sound.

The setting should never contain:

- Inappropriately placed mirrors
- Video cameras

Equipment

Equipment must be cleaned and maintained on a regular basis. A written record of all repair and maintenance activities should be kept.

Linens and towels must be available in the treatment area to provide adequate draping. Linens including towels, pillowcases, sheets, face cradle covers etc. are to be changed and maintained as described in the MTAA's Standards of Practice document.

Policies and Procedures

A clinic with staffing should have written policies and procedures that document procedures relating to:

- Staff performance and conduct – confidentiality, job descriptions, performance appraisals, supervision of students / volunteers;
- Customer service – appointment scheduling, billing, contact with referral sources, funding;
- Clinic operations – treatment setting, hygiene, public health precautions, equipment maintenance, safety; and
- Legal requirements – consent for treatment, confidentiality, release of records.

The Massage Therapist Association of Alberta leads the practice of its members in Alberta. Contact us for more information on this or other position statements.