



Rules of
**Department of Economic
Development**

**Division 197—Board of Therapeutic Massage
Chapter 3—Standards of Practice**

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**Title 4—DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Division 197—Board of Therapeutic
Massage
Chapter 3—Standards of Practice**

4 CSR 197-3.010 Standards of Practice

PURPOSE: This rule establishes standards of practice for licensed massage therapists including those licensed massage therapists performing chair and on-site (outcall) massages and provisionally licensed massage therapists.

(1) Competence.

(A) Each massage therapist shall:

1. Practice within his/her own scope of education, practice, and competence and refer clients to other health professionals when appropriate;
2. Maintain in the records a copy of the current massage therapy license and any advanced training by documentation; and
3. Acknowledge the limitations of and contraindications to massage therapy and will not encourage unjustified treatment.

(B) No massage therapist shall delegate professional responsibilities to a person who is not qualified or licensed to perform them.

(2) Dual Relationships.

(A) No massage therapist shall:

1. Engage in any verbally or physically abusive behavior with a client;
2. Engage in sexual conduct with his/her client(s) during a massage session;
3. Exercise influence within a massage therapist-client relationship for purposes of engaging a client in sexual activity during a massage session;
4. Take unfair advantage of the client for financial gain;
5. Massage the genitals; or
6. Massage the breast unless done by physician prescription or by documented clinical indication by a therapist who holds certification or advanced training in techniques related to therapeutic treatment of mammary tissue.

(3) Client Welfare.

(A) Each massage therapist shall:

1. Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty and integrity;
2. Maintain professional liability insurance coverage;
3. Obtain and document written client assessment information, prior to performing initial massage therapy services, which shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - A. Purpose for visit;

- B. Presence of pain and the location;
- C. Allergies;
- D. Currently under the care of any health or mental healthcare professional;
- E. Current medication use and the purpose;
- F. Recent surgeries;
- G. Preexisting conditions;
- H. Written consent for treatment and date signed; and

I. The massage therapist's signature and date of service;

4. Update, at each session, the client record which shall include:

- A. Client assessment information updated, if any changes or additions;
- B. The date massage therapy services were performed;
- C. Type of services performed;
- D. Length of treatment;
- E. Outcome assessment (may not apply to on-site/chair massage); and
- F. The massage therapist's signature or initials;

5. Maintain client records for at least three (3) years;

6. Provide privacy for the client while the client is dressing and undressing;

7. Provide appropriate draping during treatment which includes draping at the gluteal cleft and genitals on males and females and the breasts on females;

8. Modify or terminate treatment at the client's request regardless of prior consent;

9. Exercise the right to refuse to treat any person or part of the body for just and reasonable cause;

10. Utilize universal precautions at all times as defined in 4 CSR 197-1.010(4). This includes handwashing before and after each client and not knowingly exposing clients to contagious diseases;

11. Provide adequate space around massage chair/table to allow for proper body mechanics and to minimize the spread of infection between tables/chairs;

12. Maintain all equipment used to perform massage therapy services in a safe and sanitary condition, which shall include but not be limited to:

A. Covering any massage or steam equipment that does not have an impervious barrier with a single service material;

B. Repairing all cuts and nicks in upholstery;

C. Cleansing all equipment coming in contact with a client, including hydrotherapy equipment, combs, brushes, showercaps, showers, tubs, and basins with an antibacterial agent between each client usage;

D. Performing a visual check of all equipment for the presence of any liquid, oil

and/or body fluid and if present, all equipment shall be cleansed by the application of an antibacterial agent prior to and between each client usage;

E. Face cradles and arm rests on all massage chairs and tables must be cleaned with an antibacterial agent between each client regardless of whether or not a single service material was used;

F. Using all ice cubes only once and then disposing of properly; and

G. Cleansing after each use and keeping well maintained all ice and heat pack equipment;

13. Store and dispense from suitable containers all massage lubricants, which shall include but not be limited to oils, soaps, alcohol, powders, lotions, shampoos and salts in order to prevent contamination;

14. Remove lubricants from containers in a sanitary manner;

15. Keep multiple use containers, such as pump bottles and tubes, free of debris and sanitize between each client use and before refilling;

16. Store massage lubricants separately from cleaning supplies;

17. Store massage lubricants in a fashion to preserve their integrity;

18. Use only clean linens and drapes;

19. Store all single service materials and linens off the floor in closed or covered shelves, containers, cabinets or closets;

20. Furnish clean and fresh all single-service materials and linens such as sheets, towels, gowns, and pillowcases used in the practice of massage for each individual client;

21. All soiled linens and drapes shall be professionally laundered or washed on a hot water setting with detergent and at least one (1) cup of bleach or an antibacterial agent used in accordance with product label instructions in a clothes washing machine and dried on a high heat setting in a dryer;

22. No massage therapist shall store dirty linens, trash cans, or refuse in the closed shelves, containers, cabinets or closets containing clean linens and single-service materials.

(4) Confidentiality of Clients.

(A) Each massage therapist will safeguard verbal and written confidential information of the client, unless disclosure is required by law, court order, or authorized by the client.

(B) Client records for massage therapy services not provided at a licensed massage therapy business shall be maintained by the licensed massage therapist.

(5) Representation of Service.



(A) Each massage therapist shall:

1. Disclose to the client the schedule of fees for services prior to treatment; and
2. Include in any advertisement for massage:

A. His/her name and license number;
and

B. When offering gratuitous services or discounts in connection with professional services, clearly and conspicuously state whether or not additional charges may be incurred by related services and the possible range of such additional charges;

3. Have available at all times proof of licensure and photo identification which has been taken within the last two (2) years.

(B) No massage therapist shall:

1. Misrepresent directly or by implication his/her professional qualifications such as type of licensure, education, experience, or areas of competence;

2. Falsify professional records;

3. Advertise massage therapy services or instruction which contain a false, fraudulent, misleading or deceptive statement or any form of sexual suggestiveness or explicit sexuality; or

4. Dress or behave in a provocative manner.

(6) Resolving Ethical Issues.

(A) Each massage therapist:

1. Has a responsibility to notify the board of any violation of the Standards of Practice of which the therapist has information and belief;

2. Has an obligation to be familiar with the Standards of Practice; and

3. Shall cooperate with any investigation or proceeding.

AUTHORITY: sections 324.245, RSMo Supp. 2003 and 324.262, RSMo 2000. Original rule filed Feb. 25, 2000, effective Sept. 30, 2000. Amended: Filed Nov. 26, 2003, effective June 30, 2004.*

**Original authority: 324.245, RSMo 1998, amended 1999, 2003 and 324.262, RSMo 1998, amended 1999.*