



Rhythmical Massage Therapy

Code of Ethics for Registered Practitioners

1 INTRODUCTION

The Rhythmical Massage Therapy Association (RMTA) is committed to ensuring that the highest standards of teaching and practice are maintained at all times. It has been set up by a group of experienced trainers and practitioners.

2 THE PRACTITIONER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PROFESSION AND COLLEAGUES

2.1 Practitioners must ensure they are competent to give massage in the best interests of the client.

If this is not possible, through ill health – mentally or physically – the practitioner should refrain from practicing.

2.2 Practitioners should be aware of their limitations and refer clients to other appropriate qualified practitioners where their requirements appear to be outside the scope of their holistic massage.

2.3 Practitioners should not made any kind of medical diagnosis of or prescribe treatment for a client unless qualified to do so.

Practitioners shall ensure that clients are aware of the complementary nature of the treatment and advise them to seek medical help wherever appropriate.

Practitioners must be aware of contra-indications to massage and have a responsibility to ask clients about any medical treatment and medication, and to be able to consult the GP, if appropriate.

If a patient is referred by a medical practitioner, the medical practitioner shall remain clinically accountable for the client and for any treatment given by the massage practitioner.

2.4 Practitioners must not make any claims to cure.

2.5 Practitioners should monitor their ongoing development and update their knowledge through professional literature, courses and supervision.

2.6 Practitioners should be aware of the laws prohibiting complementary therapists from treating certain medical conditions. It is an offence to massage a woman in childbirth, or for ten days thereafter, without the consent of a medical practitioner. It is an offence to treat someone with venereal disease; venereal disease being defined as syphilis, gonorrhoea or soft chancre.

3 PRACTITIONER – CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

- 3.1 The practitioner's obligation to clients is based primarily on the contractual relationship between them. Practitioners should explain the nature of the contract; in particular the duration of treatment, amount of fees (including cancellation fees) and method of payment.
- 3.2 Practitioners should be mindful of the responsibility they have to their clients; shall not abuse the trust placed in them and shall at all times act with integrity.
- 3.3 Practitioners must ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Consent of the client must be obtained if any information is disclosed, except in the case of professional supervision or when the law requires this.
- 3.4 Practitioners must not engage in sexual activity with their client.
- 3.5 In the case of a client under the age of 16 years, the consent of the parent or guardian should be obtained.
- 3.6 Practitioners shall have respect for the religious, political and social views of any individual, irrespective of race, colour, creed, sex, or sexual orientation.

4 ISSUES OF PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Practitioners shall at all times maintain high standards of hygiene, both personal and in the work environment.
- 4.2 The work environment and the equipment use must be designed for the purpose of the massage.
- 4.3 All advertising shall be informative, factually correct and not misleading.

Practitioners shall only advertise skills and services for which they are qualified.

Practitioners must not advertise in any way that implies that they are offering sexual services.

Practitioners shall not use the term 'Registered RMTA Practitioner' in advertising and promotional material unless they are currently registered on RMTA's list of practitioners.

- 4.4 Practitioners should not solicit or canvass clients of a colleague.
- 4.5 Practitioners shall insure themselves and the premises in which they work to cover professional treatments, professional indemnity and public liability.
- 4.6 Practitioners shall keep comprehensive records of all clients and treatment given, both for the benefit of maintaining continuity of treatment, reviewing treatment methods and in order to defend themselves in any action that may be brought by a dissatisfied client.

5 DISCIPLINE AND COMPLAINTS

- 5.1 Practitioners shall agree to observe this code of practice and agree to be bound by any disciplinary action that it may be necessary for RMTA to take against them.

Any complaints will be dealt with by the Association.

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