



*The Canadian Massage Therapist Association (CMTA) is made up of nine (9) provincial associations, representing over 13,000 massage therapists from across Canada. We encourage and support the efforts of all stakeholders to promote massage therapy as a respected and valued healthcare profession. This statement applies to both regulated and unregulated jurisdictions across Canada.*

*Current as of May 24, 2024.*

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### **RESTRICTIONS TO PRACTICE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY STUDENTS**

The CMTA works to maintain and enhance the credibility of the massage therapy profession across Canada. We are working towards the federal government formally recognizing massage therapy as a valued component of the healthcare landscape across all of Canada.

### **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ENTRY TO PRACTICE AFTER GRADUATION**

It is the position of the CMTA that the profession of massage therapy (and specifically the stakeholders including Associations, Regulators, and Schools of Massage Therapy) should endorse and require the completion of a minimum education standard and an objective demonstration of clinical competency before practitioners engage in the delivery of clinically indicated massage therapy to the public.

The minimum standard for entry to practice as a massage therapist is graduation from a program based on the [2016 Inter-jurisdictional Practice Competencies and Performance Indicators for Massage Therapists at Entry-to-Practice](#) (IJCD&PI). In a regulated province, the graduate is also required to pass a provincial registration exam.

### **LIMITATIONS ON TREATMENT AND BUSINESS PRACTICES**

Students are not permitted to practice “massage therapy” – this act is reserved for massage therapy professionals only. They are not permitted to use billing numbers or engage in any activity that would allow an individual to submit a claim to their insurer.

### **SUPERVISED PRACTICUM EXEMPT FROM THIS STATEMENT**

Massage therapy students who are in a *supervised* practicum or mentorship receiving hands-on training with professional educators are not included within this statement. *Supervised* is defined as a consistent application of mentorship, training, and supervision by an experienced, professional massage therapist, throughout the delivery of a treatment and treatment plan.



### **INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF STUDENTS**

Each student must recognize that the professionalism of their behaviour in supervised and unsupervised settings reflects upon them as a future Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) and may impact their ability to become a registrant. Students of massage therapy, from the first day of school, should respect the importance of this foundation and respect the standards of the profession.

Nationally it is expected that billing numbers reflect an RMT who, in a regulated province, has passed their provincial registration exam and subsequently holds a provincial registration number. In non-regulated provinces, it is required that an equivalent education has been achieved that meets the IJCD&PI and any other requirements the CMTA-recognized provincial association requires in that jurisdiction.

Under no circumstances can a student of a massage therapy program be provided with or otherwise use a billing number that allows individuals whom they have treated or provided massage services to, to claim for financial reimbursement under their health care benefits. In regulated provinces this includes those students who have graduated from a recognized program but have not yet passed their provincial registration exams. Intentionally acquiring and/or using a billing number prior to graduating is unprofessional and is considered an act of fraud that puts the entire profession's integrity in jeopardy.

### **CONCLUSION**

Massage therapy is a healthcare profession. Only those who have taken a recognized education program, whether in a regulated or non-regulated province, and passed either the provincial registration exam or are recognized by their provincial association as having met the requirements for practice as a massage therapist are able to engage in the practice of massage therapy and are able to provide a billing number to patients.



## References

**1) Code of Ethics. Retrieved May 09, 2024 from:**

[College of Massage Therapists of British Columbia \(cmtbc.ca\)](http://cmtbc.ca)

[Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan \(mtas.ca\)](http://mtas.ca)

[Massage Therapy Association of Manitoba \(mtam.mb.ca\)](http://mtam.mb.ca)

[College of Massage Therapists of Ontario \(cmto.ca\)](http://cmto.ca)

[College of Massage Therapists of New Brunswick \(cmtnb.ca\)](http://cmtnb.ca)

[Massage Therapists' Association of Nova Scotia \(mtans.ca\)](http://mtans.ca)

[College of Massage Therapists of Prince Edward Island \(cmtpei.ca\)](http://cmtpei.ca)

[College of Massage Therapists of Newfoundland and Labrador \(cmtnl.ca\)](http://cmtnl.ca)

**2) Standards of Practice. Retrieved May 09, 2024, from:**

[CMTBC Standards of Practice](#)

[MTAS Standards of Practice.pdf \(saskmassagetherapy.com\)](#)

[MTAM 2023 Standards of Practice Guide](#)

[CMTO Standards and Rules \(cmto.com\)](http://cmto.com)

[CMTNB Resources for the Public \(www.cmtnb.ca\)](http://www.cmtnb.ca)

[MTANS Nova Scotia Title Protection Policy \(mtans.ca\)](http://mtans.ca)

[CMTPEI Laws, Ethics and Standards - College of Massage Therapists of PEI \(cmtpei.ca\)](http://cmtpei.ca)

[CMTNL Standards of Practice \(cmtnl.ca\)](http://cmtnl.ca)

**3) College of Massage Therapists' of Ontario, Revised February 12, 2019**

<https://www.cmto.com/policies/massage-therapy-graduates-students-practicing-without-being-registered/>

**4) College of Massage Therapists of Newfoundland & Labrador**

[https://www.cmtnl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Policy\\_position-statements-October-2022.pdf](https://www.cmtnl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Policy_position-statements-October-2022.pdf) (page 14-Practicing Prior to Registration)

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**For more information**

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