

**PRACTICE STANDARDS
FOR SASKATCHEWAN WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
MASSAGE THERAPY PROVIDERS**

All massage therapy service providers to Saskatchewan WCB patients must comply with practice standards of the Massage Therapist Association of Saskatchewan (MTAS). Where a service is provided outside of the province of Saskatchewan, the therapist must comply with the standards of an appropriate association in that province.

The standards will encompass the delivery of massage therapy services and the environment in which these services are delivered. As well, service providers for Saskatchewan WCB patients must comply with standards included in The Massage Therapy Practice Standards for WCB Service Providers to Saskatchewan WCB Clients. Compliance to these standards will be evaluated through a survey process which will be performed jointly by Saskatchewan WCB and MTAS.

STANDARDS

A. SCHEDULING OF PATIENTS

Standard:

A massage therapy service shall be provided to Saskatchewan WCB patients by a massage therapist currently registered to practice in the province of Saskatchewan and in good standing with MTAS. Registration shall be at the therapist level which currently includes a 2200 hour educational requirement plus practical experience. Decisions regarding whether a therapist has satisfied this educational requirement shall be made by the MTAS.

Massage therapy services will be provided to Saskatchewan WCB patients only upon referral by a licensed practitioner who identifies the goals and objectives of treatment and with the authorization of Operations staff of the Saskatchewan WCB. Where the therapist or clinic has a financial relationship with the injured worker's employer, that relationship shall be disclosed to the injured worker at the first contact, ensuring the worker has opportunity to make an informed decision regarding choice of provider.

The massage therapy service must be a component of a multi-component treatment plan and not a stand-alone option and, where appropriate, will encourage the patient to make active efforts towards recovery, rather than adopting a passive involvement in recovery from the work injury.

Authorization shall be obtained prior to commencing treatment by faxing to the WCB, with referral document attached, the WCB form "Primary Level Authorization to Treat" and waiting for response.

Where WCB has authorized the massage therapy services, a maximum of five treatments will be funded and to prevent financial hardship to the injured worker, the therapist will invoice WCB, not the client, at the rate negotiated by WCB and MTAS.

There shall be evidence of some measure of volume per therapist with an average treatment time for Saskatchewan WCB patients of approximately one-half hour at no time exceeding the volume of two patients per hour.

B. FACILITY

Standard:

Treatment shall be provided in a treatment area designated solely for the provision of massage therapy/therapeutic services. Space, facilities, and equipment shall be adequate to fulfill the needs of, and be accessible to, the types of patients served. The therapist can only treat in clinics that are accredited with WCB and must notify WCB when they move, discontinue services in the clinic or begin providing service in a new location.

C. ONGOING EDUCATION

Standard:

Where treatment facilities are shared by more than one service provider, there shall be a planned orientation program attended by all new staff. All massage therapists shall meet the continuing education requirements of the MTAS and shall have knowledge of current massage therapy practice and treatment protocols.

D. RECORD KEEPING

Standard:

There shall be a written record for each patient which shall include the assessment findings, the goals and objectives of treatment, treatment plan, treatment provided, periodic reviews and discharge summary. Initial assessment findings, where requested, shall be sent to Saskatchewan WCB within three days of the assessment, a progress report shall be sent mid-course, where requested, and a discharge summary shall be sent within three days of discharge, where requested by the WCB file manager.

All reports will identify, in functional terms, the progress that is being made towards the employment duties and the goals and objectives of treatment as identified by the referring primary care provider. Treatment will be discontinued where the discharge goals are met or where insufficient progress is demonstrated toward these goals as determined by the Operations staff or the therapist or where the treatment approved by the WCB file manager has been completed.

E. QUALITY ASSURANCE

Standard:

Within each clinic there shall be a program to evaluate the quality and quantity of care provided. The evaluation shall include an evaluation of outcomes.