

New Written Consent Requirements for Treating Sensitive Areas

Information for Clients of Massage Therapists*

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO) recently introduced new requirements for Massage Therapists (“MTs” or “RMTs”) to improve client safety, in response to Ontario’s *Protecting Patients Act, 2017*, which aims to eradicate sexual abuse by health professionals.

CMTO received a significant amount of feedback on our new [Standards for Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Preventing Sexual Abuse](#) (*Standards*) since we released them on September 21, 2017. We appreciate the feedback we have received. Thank you to those who have written, emailed, and communicated with us. A Frequently-Asked Questions document has been prepared to address the top questions that CMTO has received. Please find it [here](#).

The new requirements strengthen your involvement as a client in the consent process when treatment includes sensitive areas (breasts, buttocks, upper inner thigh and front chest wall) by requiring written consent prior to treatment.

The written consent requirement was established to ensure clients are provided with a clear opportunity to decide whether their sensitive areas are touched and to strengthen our ability to enforce the College’s zero tolerance policy of sexual abuse.

Based on feedback from clients and RMTs, CMTO has streamlined the sample consent form that was provided with the *Standards* to make it more user-friendly for clients. The revised form was made available to RMTs on November 22, 2017.

CMTO will continue to monitor the implementation of the new *Standards* and provide support to clients of Massage Therapists and RMTs as they implement the new requirements into their everyday practice.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Marnie Lofsky, Director, Professional Practice at Marnie.Lofsky@cmta.com

* If you are a Massage Therapist (RMT or MT), please find [information for RMTs here](#).