

Standard of Practice: Safety and Risk Management

(see also Infection Prevention and Control)

Client Outcome

The **client** receives care that is delivered as safely as possible.

Registered Massage Therapist Outcome

The Registered Massage Therapist (RMT/MT) takes preventative and risk management measures to provide safe care.

Requirements

The practice setting must be:

1. Maintained in a safe and sanitary manner.
2. Cleaned and disinfected regularly, including all equipment.
3. Appropriately lit and arranged to allow sufficient physical/personal **privacy** and safety for each client.

The RMT must:

4. Document maintenance of the practice setting in an equipment service record or log.
5. Adhere to current health and safety government orders and directives, legislation and CMTO guidance.⁹
6. Handle any hazardous materials safely and in compliance with established protocols and practices, including the requirements of the *Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)*.
7. Participate in training and/or certification and support activities related to safety and risk management as required and/or appropriate for the practice setting.
8. Recognize and manage situations that place clients, themselves, other RMTs, clinic staff and other **healthcare professionals** at risk.
9. Respond effectively to **safety incidents** to minimize harm to clients, document them and disclose to relevant authorities to prevent future adverse events.
10. Comply with the *Standard of Practice: Draping and Physical Privacy* in order to drape clients effectively for the client's physical privacy and safety.

Relevant Legislation and Regulation

- *Ontario Regulation 544/94* under the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991*
- Professional misconduct in Section 26 of *Ontario Regulation 544/94* under the *Massage Therapy Act, 1991*
- *Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) 860* under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990*

Resources and Guidance

To meet or exceed the Standard, please see the following:

- *Standard Spotlight: Safety and Risk Management*
- *Code of Ethics*
- *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings – PIDAC and PHO*
- *Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice – PIDAC and PHO*
- *Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings – PIDAC and PHO*

⁹ In the case of differences in requirements, RMTs must adhere to the most restrictive or stringent requirements.

Related Standards of Practice

- Acupuncture
- Client-centred Care
- Communication
- Consent
- Draping and Physical Privacy
- Infection Prevention and Control

Related Career-Span Competencies (CSCs)

- Comply with legal requirements
- Maintain a safe work environment