



Dual Health Profession Policy

Effective date: January 15, 2023

Amended:

About this policy

The purpose of this policy is to help clarify the roles and responsibilities of MTANS members who practice more than one health-care profession. This includes both regulated and unregulated health professions.

Our responsibilities to members

- MTANS is sharing this policy to assist members who are trained in other health care professions and who may be licensed with other professional associations and/or regulatory colleges to ensure proper practices are applied with respect to their accountabilities and the public is not confused by the dual title/designation.

Member responsibilities to MTANS

- A Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) is required to operate within their scope of practice and ensure clients understand which service is being provided. RMTs must give careful consideration regarding whether they are using their additional skills and knowledge within the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy, or under a different scope of practice.

Members with dual professional designation should apply the following principles:

- **Accountability:** RMTs are responsible for ensuring they are providing treatment within their scope of practice when using the protected RMT title.
- **Clarity:** Through the appropriate separation of practice, RMTs will ensure that the public is fully aware of the profession they are practicing at any given time and also to which college or association the practitioner is responsible.

- Integrity/honesty: RMTs must ensure that clients understand when and in what circumstances they are receiving treatment from the practitioner in their capacity as a Massage Therapist, and when they are receiving treatment which is outside the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy and within the scope of practice of another health profession. This should be communicated through informed consent and then documented in treatment notes and receipts. Informed consent should happen each time this occurs for a client.
- Ethics: The potential for conflict of interest to arise is heightened in dual practice. MTANS expects its members to act ethically when recommending additional services with clients' best interests always at the forefront.

Member responsibilities to clients

- RMTs with dual professional designations must keep in mind that a client's perception as a recipient of treatment is of critical importance. It is the RMT's professional responsibility to educate and inform the client about therapeutic massage and clearly outline the RMT's role in their care. It is not the client's responsibility to know or understand the scopes of practice (or regulations where applicable) of the different health professions without the guidance of the RMT. The RMT must document this conversation in the treatment notes each time it occurs.
- There will be cases where an RMT believes a client requires additional treatment outside the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy. Even when the RMT is qualified to provide the additional service, the client should be informed that other service providers are available to avoid a potential conflict of interest (see Standard of Practice: Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Interest Guidelines for more guidance).

Guidelines associated with dual professional designation requirements

RMTs should apply the following steps if they have dual professional designation:

1. Inform clients if any part of a proposed treatment is outside the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy.
2. Inform clients when a proposed treatment would not be administered in the member's capacity as a Massage Therapist.
3. Inform clients that treatment outside the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy will not be included on a receipt for massage therapy. If a treatment is not in the scope of massage therapy it cannot be billed as, or called, massage therapy. RMTs

should issue separate receipts for treatments provided in the role of the other health profession in which they are a member according to that College's/Association's receipt requirements. Please refer to the MTANS's Receipts Policy for additional guidance.

4. When booking an appointment, the appointment record must clearly indicate the professional service being provided.
5. Before consent to treatment is received, inform clients of the RMT's dual role as a Massage Therapist and as a provider in another area of health-care practice, when appropriate to the course of care being proposed to the client. (Please refer to the Standard of Practice: Consent.)
6. Provide the service that the client originally booked unless that service(s) is not in the best interest of the client.
7. Provide sufficient and appropriate information to clients to enable them to make an informed choice about which treatment(s) they wish to receive.
8. Maintain records for the massage therapy practice separate from the records of the practice of the other health profession.
9. Any advertising — digital, print, social media, etc. — must follow the MTANS's Marketing Activities Policy and there should be a clear separation of professional services that fall within and outside the scope of practice of MTANS members.
10. The RMT must not bill for massage therapy services while using another occupational title (non-massage therapy profession).
11. The MTANS's Professional General Liability Insurance will only cover RMTs when they are using modalities that they have been trained in and that those modalities fall under the Scope of Practice of Massage Therapy.
12. Take steps to avoid or manage any real, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest that may arise from recommending products or services.

Relevant documents

- Code of Ethics
- Conflict of Interest Guidelines
- Issuing Receipts Policy
- Maintenance of Client Records Policy

- Marketing and Advertising Policy
- Standard of Practice: Conflict of Interest
- Standard of Practice: Consent