



## **Standard of Practice: Safety and Risk Management**

**Date:** January 1, 2024

**Amended:**

### **Client outcome**

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

### **Registered Massage Therapist outcome**

The Registered Massage Therapist (RMT) 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. All equipment should be cleaned according to manufacturers' recommendations, with any client contact cleaned immediately after use.
3. Appropriately lit and arranged to allow sufficient physical/personal privacy and safety for each client.

The RMT must also:

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 MTANS guidance.
  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).
    - WHMIS is a nationwide system to provide information on hazardous materials used in the workplace. Nova Scotia's WHMIS Regulations place duties on employers at any workplace covered by the Occupational Health and Safety Act where hazardous materials are used, stored, or handled. Guidance relating to Nova Scotia's regulations can be found here:  
<https://novascotia.ca/lae/healthandsafety/docs/WHMISRegsInterpretGuide.pdf>
1. Participate in training and/or certification and support activities related to safety and risk management as required and/or appropriate for the practice setting.
  2. Recognize and manage situations that place clients, themselves, other RMTs, clinic staff, and other health-care professionals at risk.
  3. Respond effectively to safety incidents to minimize harm to clients, document them, and disclose to relevant authorities to prevent future adverse events.
    - Keep a well maintained first aid kit in a visible and accessible location.
    - At a minimum and in all cases, accident and/or injury reporting must comply with the requirements of the Province of Nova Scotia's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA). In the event of a discharge or spill of a hazardous substance or pollutant into the environment, the incident must be reported immediately to the Nova Scotia Department of the Environment as well as local fire and/or police departments and to Environment Canada.
1. 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 documents**

- Interpretation Guide for Nova Scotia's WHMIS Regulations
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations* (Nova Scotia)

- Standard of Practice: Infection Prevention and Control
- Standard of Practice: Draping and Physical Privacy