



ONCOLOGY MASSAGE ALLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR OMA ONCOLOGY MASSAGE THERAPISTS

A qualified OMA oncology massage therapist must have the following requirements:

- Has completed a 500-hour massage therapy program from an accredited massage therapy school or completion of 300 hours or more from an accredited massage therapy school and has acquired equivalent massage training through specific training, work history and life experience.
- Has completed, or will complete within one year, a post-graduate, advanced training program related to oncology massage that is any Society for Oncology Massage accredited 24-hour Oncology massage program.
- Has two years of active massage therapy experience.
- Is currently licensed by State and local laws. This documentation is required to be current and online with OMA.
- Maintains professional Liability Insurance of \$1,000,000 in personal liability coverage. This documentation is required to be current and online with OMA.
- Add OMA to their professional liability insurance as an “Additional Insured” and send a copy of the coverage verification certificate to OMA for the files.
- Attends OMA’s clinical training (orientation to infusion rooms) prior to volunteering. This documentation is required to be current and online with OMA.
- Maintains access to an active email account for communication with OMA and responds in a timely manner. Other forms of communication other than email can be used such as text or voice.
- OMA MT Meetings. Starting in 2016, OMA massage therapist meetings will be held as needed in addition to the Annual Meeting for all OMA representatives. Although these meetings are not required, it is encouraged that MTs, as well as Lead Therapists, attend these gatherings. The location and date for this annual meeting will be announced in a timely manner. For therapists in areas outside of the Austin area, a regional meeting could be held once a year.
- Practitioner/Supporter Levels. Choose between OMA’s two levels of membership: Practitioner and Supporter. The first level of associate (Practitioner) is as an Infusion Room and Radiation area Massage Therapist where you commit, on a regular basis, to providing hand and foot massage sessions to oncology patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments as well as other types of infusion. The second level of associate (Supporter) is as an OMA Massage Therapist where you cannot commit to volunteer in the Infusion room, but you still want to remain active in OMA and help out in other capacities.
- Community Outreach Events. To increase public awareness about OMA and the benefits of oncology massage, it is vital that all MTs (including LTs) who are Practitioners and Supporters, participate in OMA’s community outreach events, such as chair massages, cancer support gatherings, wellness fairs, and other educational outreach OMA events. Starting in 2015, the participation in at least one OMA events/year will be recommended for membership in OMA.
- No gratuity will be accepted by the OMA massage therapist for personal gain, but the massage therapist can provide contact information for OMA, accept donations (as arranged by the facility).

- In many facilities, you will also not be allowed to pass out your personal business cards so check with the Lead before doing so.

A qualified OMA oncology massage therapist must attend training and adhere to protocols for the massage therapy work which include:

- One orientation at the facility by the Lead for each new massage therapist starting the program. The Lead at the facility is responsible for maintaining the OMA records and reporting back to the Operations Committee in a timely fashion.
- Be mindful of each patient's needs and emotional status. Allow the 'space' for the patient to enjoy the touch, fall asleep, open up to you, or just be present. The therapist gives the patient someone to interact with who is not in the patient's immediate social circle and is not part of the medical staff. This is the patient's time, so OMA therapists are asked to follow the patient's lead - be mindful to not be too 'chatty' or have the urge to tell your 'story.'
- It is extremely important that you follow the HIPPA regulations at all times while you are working as an OMA therapist. Remember you are not allowed to diagnose or offer advice about any patient's or caregiver's medical situations. You do not explain or interpret the facility's procedures or policies or nursing staff instructions. You do not give advice but rather tell the patient to ask their nurse, doctor or other facility staff and do NOT offer interpretation regarding their medical status. Do not discuss or mention any other patient's status to another patient. When informing a patient's nurse about your observations of that patient, be sure you cannot be overheard by others. This is HIPPA legislation and may result in your immediate removal from OMA. We take this very seriously and expect you to do so as well. All of us at OMA strive to be professional and maintain the highest of standards and we expect the same from all our therapists.
- Work protocols for sign-in and sign-out, charting results of each shift, ensuring visibility of the OMA organization while on duty, and adhering to the requirements of the treatment center.
- Charting each massage session, clearly and concisely, as well as noting changes (if possible) to the patients' physical, mental or emotional state, based on their responses. Charting documentation procedures are listed on the document entitled "Oncology Massage Alliance Program Guidelines."

A qualified OMA oncology massage therapist must maintain written documentation:

- Monthly charting notes and timesheets are to be completed, dated and signed by each OMA massage therapist and the lead therapist, which documentation will be submitted by the program Chairperson to the OMA organization.
- Timesheets and charting notes must be properly filled out before any form of monetary compensation can be given to an OMA massage therapist. OMA's goal is to compensate therapists at \$25 per hour once full funding is acquired. The minimum amount of hours that an OMA massage therapist would need to work is at least 24 hours/quarter in order to receive any form of monetary compensation. Until funding becomes available: If the practitioner volunteers at least once a week and completes 12 hours of volunteer time in a 3-month period, s/he will receive a token check of \$100. After their first quarter with OMA, the OMA massage therapist must continue to commit to volunteering once/week (or volunteering every other week at least two hours), for the next subsequent quarters (a three-month period) in order to receive another \$100 token check, if funding is available.

All qualified OMA oncology massage therapists must respond appropriately if they are asked by clients for a referral for an oncology massage therapist outside of the infusion room based on the facilities requirements. If the facility allows an OMA Therapist to recommend oncology massage therapists outside of the location, the

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OMA Board's expectation is that each OMA massage therapist makes it clear that any recommendation given is their *personal recommendation* and not one that is endorsed through OMA.