



**ADVOCATE FOR MASSAGE THERAPY AS A RECOGNIZED AND RESPECTED HEALTHCARE PROFESSION**

September 26, 2018

**To:** Meghann Lawrence, LMT, Chair, and Members of the Board of Massage

**From:** Comments Submitted by the WSMTA Clinical Practices Program as approved by the WSMTA Board of Directors

**Re:** WSMTA Suggestions and comments on Chapter 246-830-XXX Massage of the ~~floor of the perineal region~~ [gluteal cleft and perineum](#)

The Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA) recommends that the Board of Massage (BOM):

1. Revise the name of the WAC to list the actual body parts to avoid confusion and to be more anatomically specific.
2. Change the CE hour requirement to 8 hours for each body area covered.

**1) Revise the name of the WAC:**

Instead of introducing a third term that is not used, WSMTA would promote the use of the anatomical body parts in the WAC title instead of the use of "floor of the perineal region". Use of the term "floor of the perineal region" could create confusion and using "gluteal cleft" and "perineum" are both succinct.

**2) Change the CE Hour Requirement to 8 hours for Each Body Area**

We are recommending that the BOM change the 16 hour requirement for this body area. Generally most massage therapists only treat one of the two body areas. Each area is very small and self contained and new techniques are not being used, just extensions of common techniques that massage therapists generally already know. Breast Massage and Intraoral Massage are much more complex areas and 16 hours is appropriate for those areas. For the gluteal cleft and perineum, only 8 hours is required at a maximum per area.

- Current Revised WAC is in Black
- **WSMTA's Comments are in Blue and bolded**

**WAC 246-830-xxx Massage of the floor of the perineal region **gluteal cleft and perineum****

(1) A massage therapist may massage the gluteal cleft from distal to the coccyx to the anus, and the perineum, after meeting the requirements in subsections (4), **(5) and (6)**.

(2) For the purpose of this section, the perineum is defined as the tissues between the anus and scrotum or vulva. Massage of the perineum does not include massage of any areas of the body listed in WAC 246-830-550(1)(a) through (f).

(3) The practice of massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) shall only be performed by a massage therapist who is specifically trained and competent in this area of practice.

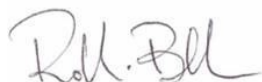
(4) A massage therapist performing massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) must maintain evidence of the completion of at least ~~sixteen~~ **eight** hours **for each area, gluteal cleft and perineum**, of specific in-person education and training in massage of the specified areas beyond the minimum competencies. The education and training for massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) includes, but is not limited to indications, contraindications, cautions, therapeutic treatment techniques, expected outcomes, client or patient safety, client or patient consent, client or patient communication, draping techniques, sanitation, and ethical responsibilities related to massaging the body parts listed in subsection (1).

(5) In addition to the requirements identified in subsection (4), prior to performing massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1), a massage therapist must obtain signed or initialed written and verbal informed consent from the client or patient. This written consent may be included within the consent to massage document, if clearly delineated. The written consent must:

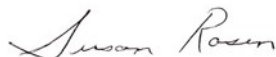
- (i) Be maintained with the client or patient records;
- (ii) Include a statement that the client or patient may discontinue the treatment at any time for any reason;
- (iii) If the client or patient is under eighteen years of age, prior written consent must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian of the client or patient;
- (iv) Include a statement that the client or patient has the option to have a witness present, and that the witness must be provided by the client or patient; and
- (v) Provide a therapeutic rationale for massaging the body parts listed in subsection (1) which is acknowledged by the client or patient.

~~(b)~~ **(6)** Use **of** appropriate draping techniques as identified in WAC 246-830-560 with the exception of clients or patients who remain clothed.

Thank you for your consideration,



Robbin Blake, LMT WSMTA Board Member and Clinical Practices Program Member



Susan Rosen, LMT WSMTA Board Member and Founder, Clinical Practices Program Director