

Electrical and Medical Devices

Preamble

Massage is the manual manipulation of soft tissue and includes holding, causing movement, and/or applying pressure to the muscles, tendons, ligaments and fascia. It is applied to patients experiencing sub-acute and chronic pain, stress and anxiety, and in the prevention, rehabilitation and maintenance of health conditions.

Myotherapy is a specialised manual therapy with a scope of practice aimed at assessment, treatment and prevention of specific musculoskeletal conditions and somatic dysfunction. Soft tissues include muscular and connective tissues and their within and between system interactions.

Depending on the application, a treatment may involve the use of a substance or device registered, listed or managed by the Therapeutic Goods and Administration (TGA).ⁱ

It is not unusual for Association members to either sell goods directly to clients, or recommend goods to therapists, or provide services that include specific interventions for which members may make claims.

Members of Massage & Myotherapy Australia (Association) fall into two categories when defined by Section 42AA of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989ⁱⁱ. Massage Therapists, Remedial Massage Therapists and Myotherapists are not specifically identified in the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989. Members of Massage & Myotherapy Australia (Association) may fall into two categories when defined by Section 42AA of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989ⁱⁱⁱ. One, where a member is also a medical practitioner or herbalist, homeopathic practitioner, naturopath, nutritionist, Chinese medicine practitioner. Otherwise, under the Therapeutic Goods Act – Therapeutic Advertising, Code Massage Therapists, Remedial Massage Therapists and Myotherapists are considered consumers.

Massage & Myotherapy Australia, as an Industry Association, is involved in the publishing of advertising material in member publications and the engagement of suppliers who may promote a substance or device through industry trade exhibitions.

The Association's Electrical and Medical Devices Position Statement is designed to facilitate best practice for safe client outcomes during treatment and to provide optimal client comfort and safety.

Aim

This position statement is to serve as a context to therapists for appropriate manual therapy practice and a platform from where the National Education and Ethics Committees can make an informed determination in relation to any complaints that arise.

This position statement should be read in conjunction with the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice^{iv}, the Electrical (Medical) Devices Guidelines^v, the practitioners' level of education and the practitioners own scope of practice.

It is intended to work alongside current formal training in massage, remedial massage, advanced diplomas and degree levels of musculoskeletal education. It endeavours to provide an outline of the principles of soft tissue treatment to ensure greatest protection for both clients and therapists.

The Association Board of Directors serves to protect both the membership and the public by adopting this position statement which is resolutely linked to the overall policy of the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Practice.

Process

As a professional health service, remedial massage and myotherapy is now an integral part of the health care system, and is widely accepted as legitimate and effective treatments for a variety of conditions.

Association members need to ensure that the recommendations they make, and the claims they make for the goods and services are truthful, accurate, based on evidence and comply with Australian and state laws. Failure to do so could lead to prosecution and in some cases to denial of coverage under insurance policies where the insurer believes the therapist has not acted in a professional way.

There is a risk to consumers where products are advertised to therapists by providers when not accompanied by the appropriate education or training in the use of that product. The requirement of the provider to provide and promote appropriate education and training resources around their advertised products is implicit.

Association members must recognise, accept and respect the right of every individual client to choose a treatment method. Therapists, therefore, must ensure that clients are never, in any way, subjected to any form of pressure whatsoever (either direct or implied) to accept the proposed use of an electrical or medical device offered for treatment.

Do not use any of this equipment unless you have appropriate training

Electrical and Medical Devices and substances that may be used by Association members, but not limited to:

1. Aromatic Oils

Blended synthetic aroma compounds or natural essential oils that are diluted with a carrier like propylene glycol, vegetable oil or mineral oil. Aromatic oils are used in aromatherapy.

2. ENAR™

ENAR (Electro Neuro Adaptive Regulator) is a hand-held therapeutic medical device (Listing ARTG 147761) for both personal use and therapist use for chronic and acute pain.

3. IPL

Intense Pulsed Light Facial used for the treatment of capillaries & Rosacea. Sun damage including freckles, hyper-pigmentation, fine wrinkles and skin laxity, and distended pores, acne and acne scarring.

4. Muscle vibration machine

An electrical device which delivers a mechanical vibration to the soft tissue. There is no transfer of current/amps to the patient.

5. Needles (Myofascial Dry Needling)

The use of needles to deactivate trigger points rather than the use of the standard digital ischemic pressure is another form of treatment for trigger points.

6. Riancorp Low Level Laser

This is a Class 1 Laser. Laser therapy can be used in the treatment of: - lymphoedema, slow healing skin wounds, fibrous lesions, strained ligaments, tendon injuries and muscle soreness.

7. Scenar Therapy

SCENAR generates exact high-amplitude bipolar electro-impulses which resemble the physiological bio- currents. SCENAR works, therefore, through the principle of biofeedback.

8. SRA Thermoscan Thermometer

Precision thermometer used to locate active trigger points in the soft tissue.

9. Stripping Slate

A manual hand device - that is used with lubricant to strip soft tissue.

10. TENS

Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation. TENS units stimulate the nerves via an electrical current through the skin to relieve pain.

12. Topical analgesic gels and creams

13. Trigger Point Tool

A manual pressure device with a rubber grommet in various shapes and sizes. The tool is used to apply pressure to active trigger points.

14. Vacuum / Flame / Silicon Cups

Cups made of glass, plastic or silicon that is either vacuum sealed or applied to soft tissue with the use of flame or pump to create negative pressure.

Other Documents

- Code of Ethics
- Standards of Practice
- Informed Consent – Position Statement

ⁱ <http://www.tga.gov.au/industry/devices.htm#>

ⁱⁱ http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/tga1989191/s42aa.html

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_act/tga1989191/s42aa.html

^{iv} Code of Ethics & Standards of Practice

^v Electrical and Medical Devices Guidelines