



# Code of Ethics & Code of Conduct for Womb & Fertility Massage Therapists

*This Code of Ethics is a summary statement of the standards by which Womb & Fertility Massage therapists agree to conduct their practices and is a declaration of the general principles of acceptable, ethical and professional behaviour.*

## **Womb & Fertility Massage therapists shall:**

- 1.1 Represent their qualifications honestly, including their educational achievements and professional affiliations and will provide only those services they are qualified to perform.
- 1.2. Be aware of cautions and contraindications, in particular where the client is undergoing Artificial Reproductive Technology, for fertility massage and bodywork and refrain from treatment where appropriate.
- 1.3. Acknowledge the limitations of massage and refer clients/patients/users on to the appropriate health professionals when necessary.
- 1.4. Provide treatment only where there is reasonable expectation that it will be advantageous to the client/patients/users. Disclaimer on website and contracts that Fertility Massage Therapy does not guarantee pregnancy.
- 1.5. Consistently maintain and improve their professional knowledge, developing a portfolio of education which meet the requirements of their professional organisation.
- 1.6. Conduct their business and professional activities with honesty, integrity, and respect the views and beliefs of their clients/patients/users in regard to gender, ethnic origins, cultural background, sexuality, lifestyle, age and social status.
- 1.7. Refrain from unjust discrimination against clients or other healthcare professionals. They must seek to maintain good relationships and co-operate with other health care professionals.
- 1.8. Ensure that clients/patients/users have an understanding about what is involved in their treatment and that voluntary informed consent is obtained either verbally or in a written form prior to treatment commencing.



- 1.9. Respect the client/practitioner relationship, the confidentiality of the client and endeavour to foster and maintain trust at all times.
- 1.10. Respect the clients' right to refuse or terminate treatment at any time, regardless to prior consent given.
- 1.11. Members may exercise the right to refuse treatment to any person, or part of the body, for just and reasonable cause.
- 1.12. Respect the clients/patients/users right to total confidentiality, including the confidentiality of clients/patients/users who may be suicidal, unless it threaten the physical safety of others.

### **Code of Conduct**

- 2.1. Practitioners should be sensitive to a client's/patients/user's modesty at all times and provide appropriate draping and treat in a way that ensures their comfort and privacy. Practitioners should make each client aware of the areas to be massaged to ensure they are comfortable with level of exposure. Also, to be sensitive to any special needs e.g. language difficulties, disability or if they wish a companion to be present.
- 2.2. Physical examinations or treatments of children under the age of 16 (18 years for Scotland) will only be given with written parental consent and must be in the presence of a parent or guardian who will need to remain present during the whole session. No treatment will be given to any unsupervised children.
- 2.3. Where a client is already receiving medical treatment for their presenting condition, treatment should not be commenced without prior consent from the respective practitioner.
- 2.4. Provide information (if requested) to other health professionals with clients written consent only.
- 2.5. Report all notifiable disease states according to applicable laws.
- 2.6. Ensure by means of continuous update of information and training, a level of competence consistent with the highest standards of the profession.
- 2.7. Maintain a portfolio of continuing professional development.
- 2.8. Deal with complaints and criticisms efficiently using appropriate procedures.



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*Massage Therapy*

2.9. Abstain from any claim or statement misrepresenting the therapeutic benefits of massage and bodywork.

2.10. A practitioner should at all times maintain the correct appearance, behaviour and conduct expected of the professional person; any abuse of alcohol, drugs, or good order is deemed to be a serious offence against this code. A practitioner should not practice if illness, physical or mental, affects their practice.

2.11. A Practitioner may not:

i) Address or refer to an assistant as “Nurse” unless the person referred to holds a nursing qualification in the country in which the practitioner is operating a clinic.

ii) Call himself/herself “Doctor” unless they hold a recognized medical qualification in the country in which the Member is practicing.

iii) Undertake to attend women in childbirth or treat them 10 days thereafter without permission from the healthcare professional unless they hold an appropriate qualification in midwifery, or have the necessary massage specialist competence in massage, pregnancy and labour.

iv) Undertake to treat clients/patients/users who are mentally unstable addicted to drugs or alcohol, severely depressed, suicidal, or hallucinating unless they have the necessary competence or have written medical consent.

v) Knowingly apply massage therapy to a person who is already receiving similar medical treatment for the same condition without the respective practitioner’s consent.

vi) Carry out any massage on a client/patient/user who has already received similar treatment for the same condition from another practitioner unless the client has, of his/her own volition, decided to abandon the original practitioner’s treatment.

vii) Treat animals without express permission from a veterinary surgeon.



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*Massage Therapy*

**Code of Practice**

Records

3.1. Members should maintain up-to-date records of all clients in regard to medical history, presenting complaint, assessment and procedures performed.

3.2. The record keeping process should be as transparent as possible, and clients should be made aware that records are being kept.

3.3. All records should be kept according to the 8 principles of the Data Protection Act (1998). These state that data must be:

- i) fairly and lawfully processed
- ii) processed for limited purposes
- iii) adequate, relevant and not excessive
- iv) accurate