

Q & A for Oncology Massage Providers for Human Touch Initiative

Human Touch Initiative is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization whose mission is to provide those who have cancer low-cost or free access to integrative therapies. This fall we will begin our Oncology Massage Program.

Who is eligible to receive oncology massage services?: Any Monroe County or bordering county residents with a current diagnosis of cancer. (within 2 years of initial diagnosis or diagnosis of recurrence of cancer. This is not a program set up to accommodate those in hospice.

Must applicants prove financial distress?: No, our services are for anyone with a current cancer diagnosis. However, on the application there is an opportunity to volunteer to pay a small part of the massage therapist's fee (\$15) to help HTI's funds stretch farther. Those who indicate they are *not* in the position to do this will receive massage at no charge.

How does the voucher system work?: A simple application for services will be available for download from our website and in brochures placed in cancer-related sites around Rochester in the fall (probably late September). Once the application is approved the client will receive three massage vouchers good for a 45-minute massage and a list of participating oncology-massage trained therapists. Clients can choose a therapist who is located most conveniently to them. Each voucher has a 6 month expiration date from time of issue.

How many massages has HTI budgeted for per month?: Our maximum is forty to fifty vouchers per month initially. That number may grow as our funds grow and as the number of oncology trained massage therapists grows.

May I limit the number of clients I will work on per month?: Yes. We respect your time and your investment in your profession. Your comfort with your commitment to our program is important to us and will come through when dealing with your/our clients. Our other priority is to make sure clients have a good experience. This means we need to mindfully and skillfully be able to say no to a client. If an LMT feels they have reached their limit for HTI clients in a particular month we hope they will help to get them scheduled with a colleague from the provider list (with the client's permission). If you do this for them it will take away the possibility of feeling rejected or of being given yet another phone call to make. Your colleagues and the client will appreciate your effort. HTI hopes to create a network that is not only a resource for the client but one that is supportive of the LMT as well.

What fee does HTI propose to pay the LMTs?: because this document can be downloaded by everyone and it is private information between HTI and the providers we would prefer to answer this question privately through email or phone.

How do LMTs get reimbursed?: Each voucher must be collected, signed by the client and the LMT where indicated, and mailed to HTI for payment. HTI will send payment checks out on the 15th and the 30th. HTI will provide 1099 forms at the end of the year to each LMT who has received payments.

What are the prerequisites for becoming a Participating Provider of Oncology Massage?:

A minimum of 24 hours of oncology massage training through Gayle MacDonald or any of the Oncology Massage Education Associates, Tracy Walton, Cheryl Chapman, or Lauren Muser Cates. This list is approved by Society For Oncology Massage. *Jean Van Etten is the local area approved OM trainer. She trained under Gayle MacDonald. For information you may contact her at jeanett1@rochester.rr.com.*

Be a current NY Licensed Massage Therapist

Maintain professional liability insurance.

Have a private massage practice in our community. (You may have a commercial location or a home office, providing it is distinctly separate from your living space and has a separate entrance.)

Complete an interview with HTI including a visit to your work space.

Complete an agreement with HTI that states you are an independent agent, you will maintain your license and professional liability, you accept our fee schedule, you will contact HTI if any of your contact or employment information changes and you will follow the Standards of Practice and Administrative Consideration guidelines set forth by Society for Oncology Massage.

Does manual lymphatic drainage training qualify me?:

No. A therapist may have had manual lymph drainage training and include it in her/his massage session as needed but they must have completed one of the above listed Oncology Massage Trainings.

What about other massage techniques? Does HTI restrict what manual therapies or energy therapies I use to treat a client from the HTI program?:

No. As long as you are following the Standards of Practice and Administrative Consideration Guidelines set forth by Society for Oncology Massage (www.S4OM.org) and are working legally and safely within legal operating parameters set forth by NY State for Licensed Massage Therapists.

What services are you going to add in the future?: We plan to build a network of movement/yoga practitioners and guided meditation practitioners who will offer classes for HTI's clients at discount or no-charge.

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