

Give this form to someone you know who is living with cancer. Thank you



For more information or to submit this form on line go to [www.humantouchinitiative.org](http://www.humantouchinitiative.org)

## Human Touch INITIATIVE

*Cancer therapies for body, mind and spirit.*

### Human Touch Initiative Application for the Oncology Massage Voucher Program

Please write your answers clearly and completely. Missing information may delay review of your application. This information will not be shared and will be kept confidential. **Return the completed application to: Human Touch Initiative, 86 Seminole Way, Rochester, NY 14618**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell us how you heard of our services:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check (✓) here to receive email updates about HTI and its activities.

What was your initial cancer diagnosis?: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial cancer diagnosis (mm/yy): \_\_\_\_\_

Facility where you are being treated and Doctor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Has there been a major change in your diagnosis or a recurrence of cancer more recently? Yes / No

If so, describe: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of this occurrence: mm/yy: \_\_\_\_\_

**Circle any treatment that you are currently receiving:**

chemotherapy infusions      radiation therapy      on an oral maintenance drug      wait and watch

**Is this your first application to HTI?** Yes / No

Please check (✓) here if you are able to afford a small fee of \$15 per massage (to be paid to the massage therapist at the time of service). Contributing in this way is NOT required to receive services, but if your financial situation allows it, we would appreciate your help in making our resources go further.

I understand and acknowledge that Human Touch Initiative, Inc. makes no representation or warranty with respect to any of the services I receive from its participating providers, and I agree to look solely to the individual provider in the event that I am dissatisfied in any way with the services I receive.

I certify that the information that I have provided to Human Touch Initiative is accurate and truthful to the best of my knowledge.

Print your name

Signature

Date

# Oncology Massage Voucher Program FAQ

**What is Human Touch Initiative?** We are a 501(c)3 not for profit organization whose mission is to provide those living with cancer low-cost or free access to integrative therapies.

**Who is eligible?** Any Monroe County or bordering county residents with a current diagnosis of cancer.

**Must applicants prove financial distress?**

No, our services are for anyone with a current cancer diagnosis.

**What does HTI consider a “current” diagnosis?**

If you have been diagnosed in the last two years or had a major change in your diagnosis or recurrence of cancer in the last two years.

**How does the Oncology Massage Voucher Program work?**

At *the end of the current month* we provide approved applicants with 3 massage vouchers and a list of participating oncology-massage trained therapists who accept them.

**Do we need to be an HTI client to patronize the therapists on your provider list?**

No, they have private practices and take clients by appointment. In fact, we encourage those who do not need financial assistance or are not eligible to receive our services but have a history of cancer to opt to work directly with these wonderful therapists.

**Where do clients go to receive a massage?:**

Clients go to the therapists’ office. They can choose a therapist who is located conveniently to them from our participating provider list. Participating therapists have met HTI’s criteria for specialized oncology massage training and have a current New York State license.

**Are your providers donating their services?:**

No. We respect the level of training and investment our providers have made to operate their businesses and to provide a nurturing and safe service for our clients. Therefore, we have negotiated reduced fees with them, creating a relationship beneficial to all; the client, the practitioner and HTI.

**Is massage ever *not* safe for someone with cancer?**

Not with an oncology massage trained therapists who will always be able to adjust their massage technique to be able to work with those who have cancer. They have been trained to do a thorough review of your health status with each appointment allowing them to make mindful adjustments in their technique for your session. Research is emerging to

support massage as valuable in relieving symptoms of anxiety, depression, sleeplessness and pain.

**Do I need my Doctors permission?** You should let your physician know if you are pursuing a new therapy while in their care. Your massage therapist wants to be part of your wellness team. If your doctor has any questions or concerns they can get answers from the therapists or HTI.

**What to expect? *Every massage therapist will take a thorough health history and thoroughly review it at each appointment.*** They may send you a questionnaire to fill out ahead of time or they may have you fill one out once you have come to their office. Your personal information, as any conversation you have with your therapist, is always kept confidential.

The massage itself will outwardly be comparable to any massage you have had in the past. One difference you will be able to find comfort in is, due to their specialized training in oncology massage, the massage therapist will be making well-informed, mindful decisions about you and your current state of health during your session with them. If you have never had a massage before, you can rest assured the massage therapist will take time to explain what they are going to be doing. You will be modestly draped under linens at all times. You may choose to undress to your level of comfort. Some clients prefer no clothes, some prefer to keep on their underwear. Always feel free to ask questions or to ask the practitioner to make a change in their technique if you are uncomfortable in any way. Remember, this is your time to find some calm in the chaos. Your massage therapist is there for you.

**What services are you going to add in the future?:**

We plan to implement a Chemotherapy-based Oncology Massage or COM Program at a local chemotherapy facility so patients can have mini-massages while receiving their infusions.

**How may I support HTI?:** You may make a financial donation on line, by mail or phone. You also may contribute through the United Way, or you can be a volunteer. Contact us to find out more.

**Can I buy someone a massage voucher?:** We sell oncology massage gift certificates so friends, family and coworkers of cancer patients or cancer survivors can give a meaningful and profound gift to someone they care for. 40% of voucher sales are a donation to HTI to support their free oncology massage services.

**Friend us on Facebook, Tweet and talk about our services! These are great ways to help us.**

Human Touch Initiative • 86 Seminole Way • Rochester, NY 14618 • 585-672-6222 • [www.humantouchinitiative.org](http://www.humantouchinitiative.org)