



POSITION STATEMENT

CLINIC REGULATION

The Board of Directors creates position statements in response to current trends and issues that affect the profession. They are not legal documents but rather serve as tools to guide the organization and profession.

BACKGROUND

Registered Massage Therapists (RMTs), as regulated professionals under the RHPA in Ontario, enjoy the ability to practice in a wide range of environments: clinics, spas, home based practices, hospitals, etc. For many years, there have been reports of some RMTs having difficulty practising in environments owned and operated by non-RMT clinic owners. Often the professional requirements of RMTs are not understood or complied with by non-RMT owners/operators. This divisive position often requires the RMT to choose between income and employment, or compliance with professional standards.

The College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO), in conjunction with a working group of other Health Regulatory Colleges in the province of Ontario, has initiated a process to regulate clinics that offer the services of any health professional regulated under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). Under the proposed legislation, the definition of 'clinic' would be any environment where a health care provider regulated under the RHPA practices or provides services. Therefore, any spa that employs the services of a regulated health professional would be deemed a clinic and be subject to clinic regulation.

While the details of clinic regulation are still in the development stage, it is clear the CMTO is moving forward with the working group's plans for clinic regulation.

POSITION

It is the position of the RMTAO that clinic regulation is a positive step for the profession of massage therapy and for individual therapists.

The RMTAO believes that the introduction of clinic regulation could hold clinics, and environments in which health care professions work, responsible for maintaining the professional standards of practice, including policies, position statements, and guidelines. Those environments that do not uphold these standards may face disciplinary action.

SUMMARY

In summary, the RMTAO believes that clinic regulation will have positive effects on the massage therapy profession and the working conditions for RMTs. The RMTAO is supportive of the work of the CMTO on this issue and will continue to monitor the development of clinic standards and regulation.

REFERENCES

College of Massage Therapists of Ontario (CMTO). (2015). *Colleges exploring clinic regulation in Ontario*. Retrieved from <http://www.cmta.com/2015/05/colleges-exploring-clinic-regulation-ontario/>