

**[DOH ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2010 - 0034,
December 10, 2010]**

**REVISED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS
GOVERNING MASSAGE CLINICS AND SAUNA ESTABLISHMENTS**

I. RATIONALE

Traditional medicine throughout the world recognizes the significance of therapeutic massage in managing stress, illnesses or chronic ailments. Massage therapy is considered the oldest method of healing that applies various techniques like fixed or movable pressure, holding, vibration, rocking, friction, kneading and compression using primarily the hands and other areas of the body such as the forearms, elbows or feet to the muscular structure and soft tissues of the body.

Massage therapy can lead to significant biochemical, physical, behavioural and clinical changes in the person receiving the massage as well as the person giving the massage. It contributes to a higher sense of general well-being. Recognizing this, many healthcare professionals have begun to incorporate massage therapy as a complement to their routine clinical care.

To effectively carry out the provisions of Section XIII of PD 856 – “Massage Clinics and Sauna Bath Establishments”, the Department of Health created the Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy (CEMT) to regulate the practice of massage therapy. Hence, ensure that only qualified individuals enter the regulated profession and that the care and services which the massage therapists provide are within the standards of practice.

The implementing rules and regulations need to be revised to among others adopt current trends and modern practices of massage; so as to ensure that massage therapists become more competent and globally competitive, and thus improve the quality of health service delivery.

II. OBJECTIVES

General: To improve the quality of health service delivery of governing massage facilities providing massage services

Specific:

1. Upgrade the quality of health services being accorded to the public by massage facilities;

2. Delineate the scope of functions of massage therapists and offices responsible in the management of the practice;
3. Recognize the specific offices responsible relative to the management of facilities providing massage services; and
4. Instil the essence of compassionate service to the public/clients.

III. SCOPE

These implementing rules and regulations shall apply to all facilities providing massage services, and the practitioners thereof.

IV. DEFINITION OF TERMS

To provide the implementers / stakeholders a common frame of reference in the interpretation of the guidelines, the following terms as used in this Order are herein defined:

1. Accreditation – This refers to the act of recognition or a method of determining that an eligible organization, institution, individual or program complies with the approved standards.
2. Assessor – This refers to the person with expertise in the area of massage who is appointed by the chairperson of the Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy (CEMT) to conduct practical assessment of the candidates undergoing DOH Massage therapy oral and practical licensure examination.
3. Certificate of Registration – This refers to a written commendation issued by the DOH-CEMT authorizing a person to practice massage therapy as a profession.
4. Committee – This refers to the Department of Health Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy (CEMT).
5. Continuing Massage Therapy Education (CMTE) – This refers the acquisition of knowledge, skills, ethical and moral values by a massage therapist after his/her initial registration, to improve and enhance his / her technical competence in massage therapy
6. Health Certificate – This refers to a written commendation issued by the city or municipal health officer to persons providing massage services after the same has passed the required physical and medical examinations, to include the required immunizations and the following diagnostic tests:

6.1 X-Ray/Fluoroscopic examination

6.2 Stool and other examination required

7. Licensed Massage Therapist – This refers to a trained person who passed the licensure examination for massage therapists. He / She is a holder of a valid Certificate of Registration (COR) and license for massage therapists issued by the Department of Health (DOH) Committee of Examiners for massage therapy (CEMT).

8. Massage Therapy – This refers to a system of assessment, evaluation and manual application techniques used in a scientific manner taking into account the muscle locations, stress points and other anatomical considerations of the human body. It includes adjunctive external application of water, heat and cold, stretching, passive and active joint movement within the normal physiologic range of motion as a means of promoting pain relief, injury rehabilitation or health improvement.

V. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Article 1

Organization, Structure and Functions

SECTION 1 COMMITTEE OF EXAMINERS FOR MASSAGE THERAPY (CEMT)

1.1. Membership

1.1.1 There shall be a Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy, hereinafter referred to as the "Committee", created by the Department of Health, through a Department Personnel Order which shall be directly under the Secretary of Health. The "Committee" shall be composed of a chairperson, vice-chairperson and members coming from the following offices / organizations and shall hold office for three (3) years or until their successors shall have been appointed and duly qualified without prejudice to reappointment for another term.

- Health Human Resource Development Bureau – Chairperson
- Environmental Health Office – Vice-Chairperson
- Sanitary engineer – Member
- Medical Practitioner – Member
- Physical Therapist – Member
- Legal officer – Member
- Massage Therapists – Members / Assessors / Facilitators (active members of an organization of massage therapists)

1.1.2 The Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) shall serve as the Committee Secretariat.

1.2 Powers, Duties and Functions of the Committee

1.2.1 To announce, schedule and hold examinations for massage therapists; to approve or disapprove applications for examination and to perform all other duties pertinent and related thereto;

1.2.2 To issue licenses to massage therapists who have satisfactorily passed the licensure examination and have complied with the requirements prescribed by law; to deny the issuance of license to any candidate and / or to cancel the license issued to any holder of certificate upon conviction of any criminal offence involving moral turpitude, or has been declared to be of unsound mind or physically unfit, or who has been found violating existing laws, rules and regulations as the case maybe;

1.2.3 To issue certified true copies of lost or damaged licenses for massage therapists;

1.2.4 To conduct investigations all sworn complaints against licensed massage therapists and to submit its findings and recommendations to the Secretary of Health for appropriate action;

1.2.5 To accredit institutions, associations or trainers conducting training programs and review courses for massage therapists;

1.2.6 To establish criteria for the accreditation of institutions, associations or trainers who shall train the massage therapists;

1.2.7 It shall be the duty of the Department of Health (DOH) Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy (CEMT) to cause the monitoring of massage therapists of massage establishment at least twice a year or as may be deemed necessary for the enforcement of the rules and regulations as applied to massage therapists.

1.2.9 To perform other functions necessary to regulate, standardize, professionalize and uplift the practice of massage.

1.2.10 To perform such other related duties assigned by the Secretary of Health to implement pertinent provisions of the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines and these implementing rules and regulations.

1.3 Allowance

The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Members of the Committee shall receive a monthly allowance during their term of office. Likewise, they are allowed to receive honorarium as resource speakers/persons under Administrative Order No. 93 s.2003 dated September 23, 2003.

SECTION 2 CONTINUING MASSAGE THERAPY EDUCATION COUNCIL (CMTEC)

2.1 Composition

2.1.1 In accordance with the provisions of Administrative Order No. 2008-0031, the DOH Committee of Examiners for Massage Therapy (CEMT) hereby creates the Continuing Massage Therapy Education Council (CMTEC), which consists of three members.

2.1.2 The CMTE Council shall be composed of a chairperson and two (2) members and will be assisted by the CEMT Secretariat. The chairperson shall be designated amongst the members of the CEMT. The first member shall be chosen from amongst the members of the DOH accredited training institutions for massage therapists by the members themselves. The second member shall be chosen from among the licensed massage therapists (active organization with the most number of massage therapist members) who are in active practice with valid certificate of registration and updated license and chosen among the members themselves.

2.2 Powers, Duties and Functions

2.2.1 Accept, evaluate and approve applications for accreditation of CMTE programs, activities or sources as to their relevance to the profession; and determine the number of CMTE credit units to be earned on the basis of the contents of the program, activity or source submitted by the CMTE providers;

2.2.2 Determine the appropriateness of the training fee vis-à-vis the training course / programs, activities and sources to be offered;

2.2.3 Monitor the implementation of CMTE programs, activities or sources;

2.2.4 Assess periodically and upgrade criteria for CMTE programs, activities or sources; and

2.2.5 Perform such other related functions that may be incidental to the implementation of the CMTE programs, activities or sources.

2.3 Honoraria

The Chairperson and the two Members of the Council shall receive the same compensation/ honorarium as resource speakers/persons under Administrative Order No. 93 s.2003 dated September 23, 2003.

Article 2 **Examination, Registration and Practice**