



THERAPEUTIC TOUCH NETWORK OF ONTARIO

Guidelines for Agency Volunteer Paid Services and Agency Membership

Purpose

To provide guidelines and recommendations for health care facilities and insurance companies, *herein called "agencies"*, for the provision of Therapeutic Touch® (TT) and training of paid and volunteer Therapeutic Touch practitioners.

Goals

These guidelines are intended to:

1. Assist agencies in the implementation of a Therapeutic Touch program for the benefit of their residents, clients, patients, families, volunteers and/or staff
2. Provide information established by the governing body, the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario (TTNO), of the established educational standards for Recognized Practitioners and General Members, and recommended minimum standards of education for volunteers and staff,
3. Optimize the experience for the agency, TT practitioners, TT students and recipients of Therapeutic Touch

Overview:

The TTNO is the governing body for Therapeutic Touch practitioners in Ontario and sets educational standards for Recognized Practitioners and Teachers of Therapeutic Touch in Ontario. These standards are in line with the educational standards prescribed by the Therapeutic Touch Network of Canada (TTNC) and Therapeutic Touch International Association (TTIA). Recognized Practitioners (RP) are required to earn annual continuing education credits by attending workshops that have been approved by the TTNO to maintain their RP status.

The words "Therapeutic Touch" are trademarked in Canada and *may only be used by persons who are members of a provincial network in Canada*. In Ontario that is The Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario (TTNO).

Agencies that choose Therapeutic Touch as a complementary therapy to provide to residents, clients, patients, families, volunteers and/or staff may benefit from reviewing these guidelines when they develop an in-house Therapeutic Touch program. Agencies that wish to train their staff and volunteers to provide TT services independently are advised to ensure this undertaking is done with consideration given to the educational standards set out by the TTNO.

The following overview of Therapeutic Touch training is provided to aid in the understanding of the educational criteria for Therapeutic Touch practitioners, whether they are volunteers or staff, who offer Therapeutic Touch within an agency.

Levels of Education

Foundations of Therapeutic Touch®

Persons at this level learn the basic process of Therapeutic Touch® and can volunteer at an agency under the supervision of a TTNO Recognized Teacher (RT) or Recognized Practitioner (RP).

Transpersonal Nature of Therapeutic Touch®

The student learns more detail about the human energy anatomy and methods to help balance the field and improve energy flow.

At the completion of this level a student may continue in their course of study and practice to become a Recognized Practitioner.

A student who has completed any level of training may join the TTNO as a General Member (GM). A GM requires mentoring/supervision from a Recognized Teacher (RT) or Recognized Practitioner (RP) when volunteering at an agency.

Recognized Practitioner

Recognized Practitioners complete both levels of training with a Recognized Teacher, complete the Practitioner Workbook and are approved for professional practice by the TTNO. Once RP status is achieved, TTNO members may choose to volunteer **or** charge a fee for service and do not require mentoring or oversight. The RP may lead a Branch at the agency to facilitate mentorship of agency and TTNO students who volunteer at the agency.

Recommended Qualifications for Therapeutic Touch Volunteers Who Have Not Achieved Recognized Practitioner Status

Qualifications

- Complete both Foundations of Therapeutic Touch® and Transpersonal Nature of Therapeutic Touch®, (note: students who have completed Foundations of Therapeutic Touch may practice under the mentorship of an RT/RP with the approval of the agency)
- Membership in the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario
- Attend Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario Branch Meetings and/or
- Receive regular mentorship from an RP or RT

The TTNO will confirm, at the request of an agency, whether a volunteer is a member in good standing and what level of training they have achieved.

Agencies may determine the requirement for level of training of their staff and/or volunteers.

Continuing Education Options

- Participate in TTNO approved education & support (Professional Development Days, TTNO approved workshops, TTNO Conference)
- Be in the process of completing their Practitioner Workbook

Confirmation of Training

- The volunteer or staff will provide certificates of all completed levels to the agency prior to participating as a practitioner in the agency Therapeutic Touch® program

Paid Therapeutic Touch Service Recommendations

- A Recognized Practitioner (RP) or Recognized Teacher (RT) who is a member in good standing with the TTNO is qualified for professional practice
- The RP/RT will provide a copy of their current membership card, upon request, to the agency
- The TTNO does not dictate the fees that are charged by an RP/RT in professional practice

Membership in the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario (TTNO)

Benefits of Membership

- Members are permitted to use the trademark “Therapeutic Touch®” when offering services in agency settings
- Other member benefits may include, but are not limited to:
 - Attendance at Branch meetings to practice TT with other practitioners, ask questions about their experiences and network with other practitioners
 - Membership rates for attendance at Professional Development Days and Annual Conference for continuing education,
 - Access to the TTNO website and the member resources on the website (depending on type of membership)
 - Receipt of an electronic copy of the TTNO quarterly *inTouch* newsletter

Types of Membership Available

- Individual Memberships (Associate, General, Recognized Practitioner, Recognized Teacher, Retired Members)
- Agency Membership (to cover employees and volunteers of the agency)

Agency Member

An “Agency Member” is an agency, such as Long-Term Care Facility, Hospice, Hospital, Health Care Centre, Nursing Home or other public or private health care facility that chooses to implement an internal Therapeutic Touch® program in order to offer TT services to their residents, patients, clients, families, volunteers and staff. This membership covers staff members or agency volunteers of the agency who have been trained in any formal level of Therapeutic Touch by a TTNO Recognized Teacher.

Agency members have the following benefits:

- Electronic copy of the TTNO quarterly *inTouch* newsletter
- Member rates for employees/volunteers to attend continuing education workshops
- Access to the TTNO website members area
- Use of the trademark “Therapeutic Touch®”.

Annual Fee: Applies to employees or volunteers of the Agency

- 1-10 employees/volunteers trained in Therapeutic Touch. \$15/persons to a max of \$100
- 11-20 employees/volunteers trained in Therapeutic Touch. \$12.50/person to a max of \$150
- Over 20 \$200

Note: Current members of the TTNO are exempt.