

**(Effective September 1, 2021)**

**WAC 246-830-557 Massage of the gluteal cleft or perineum.** (1) A massage therapist may massage the gluteal cleft from distal to the coccyx to the anus, and the perineum, after meeting the requirements in subsections (3), (4), and (5) of this section.

(2) For the purpose of this section and WAC 246-830-550, the perineum is defined as the tissues between the anus and scrotum or vulva. Massage of the perineum does not include massage of any areas of the body listed in WAC 246-830-550 (1)(b) through (f).

(3) A massage therapist performing massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section must maintain evidence of the completion of at least sixteen hours of specific in-person education and training in massage of the specified areas beyond the minimum competencies. The education and training for massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section includes, but is not limited to, indications, contraindications, therapeutic treatment techniques, expected outcomes, client or patient safety, client or patient consent, client or patient communication, draping techniques, sanitation, and ethical responsibilities related to massaging the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section.

(4) Prior to performing massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section, a massage therapist must obtain signed or initialed written and verbal informed consent from the client or patient. If the client or patient is under eighteen years of age, prior written consent must be obtained from a parent or legal guardian of the client or patient. This written consent may be included within the consent to massage document, if clearly delineated. The written consent must:

(a) Be maintained with the client or patient records;

(b) Include a statement that the client or patient may discontinue the treatment at any time for any reason;

(c) Include a statement that the client or patient has the option to have a witness present, and that the witness must be provided by the client or patient; and

(d) Provide a therapeutic rationale for massaging the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section that is acknowledged by the client or patient.

(5) A massage therapist must use appropriate draping techniques as identified in WAC 246-830-560 with the exception of clients or patients who remain clothed.

(6) A massage therapist performing massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section must use hygienic, safe, and sanitary practices, including:

(a) Wearing gloves during treatment and training that involves massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section unless the treatment or training is provided over clothing or draping that provides a barrier to transmission of biologically hazardous material and infectious disease;

(b) Using fresh gloves for every client or patient during treatment and training that involves massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section unless the treatment or training is provided over clothing or draping that provides a barrier to transmission of biologically hazardous material and infectious disease; and

(c) Gloves that have been used for treatment and training that involves massage of the body parts listed in subsection (1) of this section must not be reused for any other purpose.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.108.085 (1)(a), 18.108.025 (1)(a), chapter 18.108 RCW and 2020 c 76. WSR 21-02-012, § 246-830-557, filed 12/24/20, effective 9/1/21.]