

## **Integrative Healthcare Specialty Certificate Education Outline**

If you are an active NCBTMB Assigned School or Approved Provider in good standing, you may qualify to become an NCBTMB Specialty Partner and offer students/practicing therapists the opportunity to earn a Specialty Certificate in Massage Therapy for Integrative Healthcare.

The Specialty Certificate in Massage Therapy for Integrative Health provides students with the education and experience needed to enter into the medical and allied health arenas and work in collaboration with fellow professionals as part of an integrative healthcare team. Once students/therapists complete an approved NCBTMB Specialty Program, they are automatically eligible to sit for the NCBTMB Specialty Exam. Successful completion of the exam is a testament of a student's knowledge of healthcare policies and procedures in relation to the Massage Therapy Scope of Practice.

“This specialty certificate is a game-changer for our students,” said CCBC Massage Therapy Director Robin Anderson. “Healthcare facilities are finally recognizing the important role massage therapists play in the overall health of a patient—managing pain, reducing stress, and more. The Specialty Certificate in Massage Therapy for Integrative Health shows employers our students not only have the technical skills, but also the knowledge-base in healthcare policies to be a valuable member in any healthcare team.”

To forge a partnership with NCBTMB, your program must meet specific criteria to ensure students/therapists have mastered and are familiar with massage techniques, proper patient bolstering and movement, safety and sanitation practices, medication knowledge, HIPAA laws and more. All programs must also provide an internship or shadowing opportunity within a medical facility.

### **To partner with NCBTMB and be a recognized Integrative Healthcare Specialty Certificate Program, your curriculum must include the following components:**

- I. Infection Control Management**
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Nosocomial infections
  - Healthcare standards
  - Single Use emollient
  - Implants and IVs
  
- II. Hospital Laws and Regulations**
  - Accreditation
  - HIPAA
  - Stark Law
  - Anti-kickback laws
  - Federal privacy laws
  - Level of care laws
  - State privacy laws

- Identification requirement laws
- OSHA lifting and moving regulations
- Delegation regulations
- Abuse and fraud reporting requirements

### **III. Guidelines for Integrative Healthcare Practice**

- Common signs (NPO, contact precaution, etc. and universal codes)
- Procedures dealing with frail patients
- Daily assessment of quality of life
- Charting
- Medical terminology

### **IV. Basic Life Support – Healthcare Provider Level**

### **V. Acute Care**

### **VI. Ethics and Communication**

- Roles and Scope of Practice
- Interdisciplinary professions
- Cultural competency and cultural practice
- Communication within the interdisciplinary team
- End of life care
- Stages of grief
- Patient centered communication

### **VII. Pharmacology**

- Chemotherapy
- Glucocorticoids
- Pain medications
- Antiplatelet/Anticoagulants
- Immunological therapies
- Pharmacotherapeutics
- Pharmacodynamics
- Pharmacokinetics
- Administration methods
- Onset of action

### **VIII. Clinical Applications in a Healthcare Facility**

### **IX. Definition of Massage Therapy Credentials**

- Difference between entry-level licensure and Board Certification
- Review of local city/state/jurisdiction laws to practice Massage Therapy
- How to promote/explain various credentials to clients and employers

### **Next Steps to Becoming a Specialty Partner**

If you believe your Assigned School or Continuing Education program fits the above requirements, your next step is to apply to become an Approved Specialty Program.

#### **To apply:**

1. Visit [exam.ncbtmb.org](http://exam.ncbtmb.org)
2. Register for an account
3. Once registered/logged in, click on “Become a Specialty Program” (top right)
4. Click “Apply”
5. Fill out all required information and submit

A non-refundable \$25 Application Fee is required at the time of application.

Please allow a minimum of 4-6 weeks for the processing of your application. Upon review, a representative from NCBTMB will be in contact via email to detail next steps and provide you with additional support.

**Questions?** Email [info@ncbtmb.org](mailto:info@ncbtmb.org) or call 1-800-296-0664.