

Canadian
Association for
Music Therapy



Association de
musicothérapie
du Canada

Standards of Practice

Schedule C – Standards of Practice of the Canadian Association for Music Therapy

Standards of Practice

STANDARD 1: SPECIALIZED BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Bases practice on music therapy arts and sciences and on related content from other arts, sciences, and humanities.

Indicators:

- 1.1 Knows how and where to find needed information.
- 1.2 Justifies decisions with reference to music therapy knowledge and theories.
- 1.3 Presents an informed view of the music therapy profession to others.

STANDARD 2: COMPETENT APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Identifies through assessment actual or potential needs and strengths, plans interventions, performs planned interventions, and evaluates outcomes.

Indicators:

- 2.1 Searches for client information from a variety of sources, the primary source being the client, using skills of communication, observation and assessment. If the client is unable or unwilling to disclose information, corroborative sources can be determined as a source with the full knowledge of the client whenever possible.
- 2.2 Distinguishes between relevant and irrelevant information when assessing, planning interventions, goal setting, reporting, and evaluating.
- 2.3 Establishes that all actions and interventions are subject to the reasonable belief that the client will benefit from the action and will address the client's needs and strengths.
- 2.4 Sets priorities when planning and providing therapy.
- 2.5 Practices in a competent manner in accordance with policies, procedures and care standards (see CAMT paper: Competencies for Music Therapists).
- 2.6 Evaluates client's response to interventions and revises them as necessary.
- 2.7 Writes timely and accurate reports of relevant observations, including conclusions drawn from them.
- 2.8 Initiates, maintains and concludes a professional relationship.

STANDARD 3: PROVISION OF A SERVICE TO THE CLIENT

All provisions of music therapy to the client are in the best interest of the client.

Indicators:

- 3.1 Provides music therapy services based on assessment of the client's motivation and physical and mental capacity.
- 3.2 Recognizes that the client is considered an individual, a family unit member, a community member, and a person with a distinct ancestry or culture and that the music therapist will consider these factors in all decisions regarding the client.
- 3.3 Communicates and consults with other members of the health care team, if any, about the client's care.
- 3.4 Exercises judgment in assuming or performing responsibilities.
- 3.5 Informs the client that any threat of harm to a person will be revealed to that person or a police officer.
- 3.6 Conscious of the power differential that exists between them and their clients, both real and ascribed, and works to diminish its relevance and significance.
- 3.7 Ensures that all members of a music therapy group are aware of the likelihood that elements of their private lives may be expressed in the course of group work and require a commitment from all members to respect the confidential nature of the communication that occurs in group work.
- 3.8 Terminates a professional relationship appropriately when it seems reasonably clear that the service is no longer of benefit to the client.

STANDARD 4: PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Provides music therapy services, co-ordinates activities and collaborates with others in providing music therapy services.

Indicators:

- 4.1 Advocates change in the best interest of the client and for the universal benefit of society, the environment, and the global community by:
 - a) identifying, documenting and advocating for the elimination of discrimination;
 - b) advocating for the equal distribution of resources to all persons;
 - c) advocating for the equal access of all persons to resources, services and opportunities;
 - d) advocating for a clean and healthy environment and shall advocate the development of environmental strategies consistent with music therapy principles;
 - e) providing reasonable professional services in a state of emergency; and
 - f) promoting social justice.
- 4.2 Explains or educates clients, staff, organizations and others about music therapy services.
- 4.3 Participates in, and encourages quality management activities.
- 4.4 Participates in professional interest groups.
- 4.5 Ensures that outside interests of the music therapist will not:
 - a) affect the music therapist's ability to practice music therapy;
 - b) present to the client or community that the music therapist's ability to practice music therapy is affected; or
 - c) bring the profession of music therapy into disrepute.

STANDARD 5: CODE OF ETHICS

Adheres to the ethical standards of the music therapy profession.

Indicators:

- 5.1 Complies with the Code of Ethics of the profession.
- 5.2 Demonstrates honesty (refraining from lying, cheating or stealing) and integrity (strict adherence to a standard of value or conduct).
- 5.3 Reports unsafe practice or professional misconduct to the Ethics Chairperson.
- 5.4 Acts as an advocate to protect and promote a client's right to autonomy, respect, privacy, dignity and access to information.

STANDARD 6: SELF REGULATION

Assumes primary responsibility for maintaining competence, fitness to practice, and acquiring new knowledge and skills.

Indicators:

- 6.1 Invests time, effort or other resources in maintaining knowledge and skills required for practice (see CAMT position paper: Guidelines on Professional Development).
- 6.2 Practices within own level of competence.
- 6.3 Maintains current membership in professional associations.
- 6.4 Maintains own physical, mental and/or emotional well-being.
- 6.5 Strives to be aware of his/her own belief systems, values, needs and limitations and the effect of these on their work.

STANDARD 7: RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Maintains standards of music therapy practice and professional behaviour determined by the Canadian Association for Music Therapy.

Indicators:

- 7.1 At all times is accountable and takes responsibility for own actions.
- 7.2 Functions within the recognized scope of practice of music therapy and within any relevant legislation.
- 7.3 Works to establish policies and practices that respect and protect the confidentiality of client information.
- 7.4 Follows or helps to develop established facility and/or departmental policies and standards.
- 7.5 Advocates improvements in music therapy practice, education, administration and research.