
Proposal to recognise Remedial Massage Therapy

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Preamble

The Association of Massage Therapists Ltd (AMT) is proposing that the Department of Veterans' Affairs reintroduce a rebate for remedial massage therapy as part of its suite of ancillary health services.

We have put together this proposal on behalf of our members, who are currently providing professional massage therapy services to hundreds of veterans, and at the request of the veterans themselves who are asking for their treatments to be appropriately rebated.

We have included documentation on AMT's membership criteria and education standards, practice and procedures guidelines, and our Code of Ethics.

We recommend that the Department of Veterans' Affairs endorse AMT's Senior Level One, Two and Three members as remedial massage therapy providers.



National Standards in Massage Therapy

National Competency Standards for Massage Therapy were introduced in 2002 as part of the Health Training Package. The two major qualifications being delivered through the training package are the nationally-recognised HLT40302 Certificate IV in Massage Therapy and the HLT50302 Diploma of Remedial Massage.

There are over 100 Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) delivering these qualifications across Australia. In the public arena, this training is delivered through the TAFE system but there are also many private colleges who have complied with the standard and must submit to the same audit process.

A full list of these colleges and the qualifications they offer is available from the AMT website here:

http://www.amt-ltd.org.au/index.php?Page=Join%20AMT_Accredited%20Schools_1.php

Professional therapists who qualified prior to 2003 are being grandfathered by associations such as AMT who actively monitor the educational qualifications of their practising members.



Third Party payments for Remedial Massage

AMT currently has provider agreements in place with over 45 private health funds. To remain eligible as providers, our members have to maintain a minimum standard. Criteria for inclusion on our health fund provider lists include continuing professional education, professional indemnity insurance and a senior first aid certificate.

AMT has a fully monitored continuing education scheme. We require our members to submit evidence of completing a minimum of 100 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per annum. This roughly equates to at least 20 hours per year.

Details of some of AMT's existing third party payment arrangements appear opposite.

Comcare

Comcare recognise all AMT practitioners for rebates on massage therapy (General Level, Senior Level One, Two and Three).

Comcare Rebates

- Initial Consultation (45 minutes) \$61.50
- Standard Consultation (30 minutes) \$49.50
- Extended Consultation (45 minutes) \$61.50
- Long Consultation (1 hour) \$76.50

Medibank Private

Medibank Private recognise AMT's Senior Level One, Two and Three members as providers. Medibank Private members who have Smart Choice Extras or Blue Ribbon Extras cover can claim rebates on their remedial massage therapy treatments.

AMT members are issued with a discrete provider number for Medibank Private. This number must be quoted on their receipts.

Medibank Rebates

- One hour consultation/treatment \$15 – 20 (depending on level of cover)

Under one plan, the full cost of the treatment is covered up to a maximum of \$300 per year.

NSW WorkCover

NSW WorkCover tied their provider recognition criteria to that of Medibank Private. However, in addition to having a Medibank provider number, NSW WorkCover providers must attend a one-day WorkCover Outcomes Training course so they can satisfactorily complete the paperwork required by the NSW WorkCover authority.

NSW WorkCover Schedule of Fees

The current fees (excluding GST) for approved Remedial Massage Therapists are:

- 30 minutes consultation/treatment \$27
- 45 minutes consultation/treatment \$41
- 60 minutes consultation/treatment \$55

Victorian WorkCover

Victorian WorkCover recognise AMT's Senior Level One, Two and Three members as providers.

Victorian WorkCover Schedule of Fees

Victorian WorkCover will pay the reasonable costs of remedial massage services up to the following maximum amounts (excluding GST)

- Initial Consultation \$43.50
- Subsequent Consultation (1/2 hour) \$29.22

Australian Regional Health Group (ARHG)

ARHG is an umbrella organisation administering 25 private health funds including Defence Health, Navy Health, Police Health and Federation Health. ARHG recognise all AMT practitioner levels (General Level, Senior Level One, Two and Three).

The following is a small snapshot of rebates from several of ARHG's funds, based on a one-hour consultation:

Navy Health	\$28 - 30
Teacher's Health	\$32
Defence Health	\$18 - 25
Queensland Country Health	\$22

Other Third Party agreements

For details of our other third party agreements, please consult the Health Fund Table overleaf.

Health Fund Status

association of massage therapists ltd

HEALTH FUNDS AND SOCIETIES

CRITERIA

Commonwealth Bank Health Society
Manchester Unity

These funds recognise all AMT practitioner levels.

ACA Health Benefits Fund (ARHG)
Australian Regional Health Group
Cessnock & District Health Benefits Fund (ARHG)
CrediCare (Credit Union Australia) (ARHG)
Defence Health (ARHG)
Federation Health (ARHG)
GMHBA (ARHG)
Health Insurance Fund of WA (ARHG)
Health Partners (ARHG)
HIF (ARHG)
Latrobe Health Services (ARHG)
Lysaght Peoplecare (ARHG)
Mildura District Hospital Fund (ARHG)
Navy Health (ARHG)
NSW Teachers Federation Health Society (ARHG)
Phoenix Health Fund (ARHG)
Police Health (ARHG)
Queensland Country Health (ARHG)
Railway and Transport Hospital Fund (ARHG)
Reserve Bank Health Society (ARHG)
St Luke's Medical & Hospital Benefits (ARHG)
Teachers Union Health (ARHG)
Transport Health (ARHG)
United Ancient Order of Druids (ARHG)
Westfund Health Fund (ARHG)

ARHG recognises all AMT practitioner levels. They require you to use their provider number. This number is AW0XXXXM, where the X's are your 4-digit AMT membership number.

Australian Health Management Group
Australian Unity
Geelong Medical Benefits Fund
Government Employees Health Fund (AHMG)
Grand United Friendly Society
HCF
National Mutual Health Fund
NIB
Super Health Plan
Victorian WorkCover Authority

These funds recognise Senior Level One, Two or Three members. HCF require new providers to fax your name, practice address and association name to 02 9279 3549.

MBF
NRMA

These funds recognise members with the HLT 50302 Diploma of Remedial Massage. You must send a signed consent form to AMT. Existing Senior Level One, Two and Three providers remain eligible.

Medibank Private

Medibank Private recognises Senior Level One, Two and Three members. They require you to apply directly to them. You will need to send them a certified copy of your membership certificate and fill out their application form which can be downloaded from the AMT website.

ANZ Health Insurance (HBA)
Cardmember Health Insurance Plan (HBA)
Gay & Lesbian Health Fund (HBA)
HBA (formerly AXA)
HealthCover Direct (HBA)
Mutual Community (HBA)

From 2006, HBA require the HLT 50302 Diploma of Remedial Massage. Existing Senior Level One, Two and Three HBA providers remain eligible.

AMT has negotiated provider status on behalf of members with the Health Funds listed. All funds require a minimum of \$1 million insurance, first aid and CEUs. If you are up-to-date with these, there is no need to apply individually to each health fund: your name will be forwarded for automatic endorsement as a provider.

To be eligible to remain on the above Health Fund lists you must:

1. Be financial and have a commitment to ongoing education (ie: an average of 100 CEUs per year)
2. Provide your clients with a formal receipt, either computer generated, or with rubber stamp or address label clearly indicating practitioner's name, AMT member number (eg: AMT 1-1234), practice address (no PO Box numbers) and phone number. Client's name, date of treatment, nature of treatment (ie: Remedial Massage), and particular health fund provider number may be handwritten.
3. Provide AMT Head Office with a practice address (or business address for mobile practitioners; no PO Boxes) - failure to supply these details to us will result in your name being removed from health fund listings.
4. Notify AMT HO of all relevant practice addresses.
5. Include a copy of one of your receipts (for each practice address) to Head Office with your next AMT membership renewal or correspondence. You should also ensure that Head Office has copies of your current Insurance and First Aid.

Please check the AMT website for further information on specific Health Fund requirements:

www.amt-ltd.org.au

Key Recommendation

AMT recommends that the Department of Veterans' Affairs adopt the same criteria as Medibank Private. We ask you to endorse our Senior Level One, Two and Three members as appropriate providers of professional Remedial Massage Therapy.



Annexures

Letters of support from Veterans

AMT Membership Criteria

Practice and Procedures guidelines

Code of Ethics



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