



Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals

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July 24, 2012

Dear LaStone® Practitioner:

Experience tells us that hot stone massage presents a higher degree of risk in massage therapy.

The massage profession has been inundated with many costly and horrific hot stone claims – severe burns/scarring - mostly from therapists with inadequate training. In an effort to educate massage therapists (as well as protect clients); Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) in cooperation with our insurance carrier, created hot stone safety and precautionary guidelines for our members. ABMP members who wish to secure liability insurance coverage for hot stone massage services must read our hot stone safety and precautionary statement, as well as view an 8-1/2 minute video and agree to adhere to those safety guidelines. ABMP feels strongly that if these restrictions help us to prevent even one client injury, it is worth the small inconvenience to our members. We also believe that the development of these safety guidelines is of great service to the profession as a whole.

In the implementation of that process, a number of our LaStone® trained members voiced significant concern regarding the inability to place stones.

Conversations with Mary Nelson the founder of LaStone® therapy reinforced that LaStone® has a very thorough training that effectively emphasizes safety precautions. In our investigation we realized that LaStone® practitioners are trained in the safety and thermal therapeutic principles of “stone placement” adhering to guidelines referring to various degrees of temperature in appropriate areas of the body with adequate layers of material (preferably cotton) to protect the client from harm according to the client’s health concerns, needs and goals for the stone session.

With only a few minor edits/suggestions to the current LaStone® training materials, we are pleased to inform certified LaStone® practitioners that LaStone®, Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals (ABMP) and ABMP’s insurance carrier **have come to an agreement to exempt trained certified LaStone® practitioners from the precaution that prohibits placing stones on or under the body in proper stone placement.**

What does this mean for the certified LaStone® practitioner? This means that the liability insurance, that is a benefit of ABMP membership, will provide coverage to the trained certified LaStone® practitioner who massages with stones directly on the client’s skin along with proper stone placement procedures as taught within the course material of LaStone® therapy courses.

When you apply for or renew your membership with ABMP, we will still ask you to read the Hot Stone precautions and view the Hot Stone precaution video but, you will not be required to adhere to the precaution of “not placing stones”. Simply provide ABMP with a copy of your LaStone® training certificate, and you will be exempt from that precaution.

We would like to thank all LaStone® practitioners for their patience. ABMP heard your voice and together, with Mary Nelson and our insurance carrier, we were able to find a solution to meet your needs.

ABMP sincerely thanks you for your continued support!

Best wishes for your continued success,

Katie Armitage
Executive Director / Vice President of Operations