MASSAGE THERAPIST (Shiatsu)

Job Description:

**Massage** **Therapists** treat clients by using touch to manipulate the muscles and other soft tissues of the body. They work in both healthcare and hospitality. With their touch, therapists relieve pain, help heal injuries, improve circulation, relieve stress, increase relaxation, and aid in the general wellness of clients. Shiatsu therapists use the specialty massage technique to help balance the energy meridians of the body known in Eastern medicine.

Job Responsibilities:

* Talk with clients about their symptoms, medical history, and desired results
* Evaluate clients to locate painful or tense areas of the body
* Manipulate muscles and other soft tissues of the body
* Provide clients with guidance on stretching, strengthening, overall relaxation, and how to improve their posture
* Document clients’ conditions and progress
* Evaluate clients' soft tissue condition, joint quality and function, muscle strength, and range of motion
* Develop and propose client treatment plans that specify which types of massage are to be used
* Consult with clients about their medical histories and any problems with stress and/or pain in order to determine whether massage would be helpful
* Massage and knead the muscles and soft tissues of the human body in order to provide treatment for medical conditions, injuries or wellness maintenance
* Prepare and blend oils, and apply the blends to clients' skin
* Discuss with other health care professionals such as physiotherapists, chiropractors, physicians, and psychologists in order to develop treatment plans for clients
* Maintain detailed and accurate treatment records of clients
* Attend and participate in meetings and training sessions
* Know when to terminate a massage or when not to initiate a massage and refer to a medical professional
* Collaborating with clients on stress and pain in order to create a treatment plan
* Exercising sensitivity to a client’s medical history and injuries while using massage to relieve pain and tension
* Coaching clients on proper exercise, stretch, and relaxation techniques
* Maintaining treatment records
* Recognizing health issues that need a referral to another healthcare provider

Job Qualifications:

Receptionist qualifications are basic and do not require a specific degree, license, or certification.

* Associates in massage therapy or diploma from massage therapy institute required
* State license in good standing required
* Bachelors in related field such as kinesiology or physical therapy preferred
* Experience as a shiatsu massage therapist

Opportunities as a shiatsu massage therapist are available for high graduates without experience in which more than one shiatsu massage therapist is needed in an area such that an experienced shiatsu massage therapist will be present to mentor.

Job Skills Required:

* Working knowledge of human anatomy and physiology
* Understanding of pathology and related conditions treatable by massage therapy
* Endurance to perform multiple massages per shift
* Working knowledge of meridians and shiatsu technique
* Great interpersonal skills
* A professional attitude and appearance
* Strong written and verbal communication skills
* Cultural competence and ethnic sensitivity
* Good listening skills
* Customer service oriented
* Respect for client, customer, and visitor confidentiality
* Knowing when something is out of the scope of practice of a massage therapist