

The Scope of Practice of the Certified Music Practitioner®

Purpose: To define the application of live therapeutic music as it is presented in health care delivery of services by a Certified Music Practitioner (CMP)®: a graduate of the Music for Healing and Transition Program (MHTP), or a student intern of MHTP.

The Music for Healing and Transition Program, Inc. professionally trains and certifies musicians to provide live therapeutic music at the bedside to create a healing environment. We collaborate with healthcare facilities and community organizations to educate about, and promote research in, the effectiveness of therapeutic music in the healing process and the life/death transition.

The definitions listed below represent the Scope of Practice of a Certified Music Practitioner®.

1. Patient Interaction

A CMP:

- A. Uses unitative listening or other suitable transpersonal process to be centered in oneself, open and receptive to the patient's physical, emotional and/or spiritual needs that may be supported with live therapeutic music.
- B. Approaches the patient from the stance of being of service, rather than as a performer.
- C. Assesses the patient and the patient's environment objectively and subjectively.
- D. Refrains from proselytizing religious or political beliefs through choice of music or speech during a therapeutic music session.
- E. Refrains from utilizing music or the musical instrument in a manner that solicits patient participation.
- F. Uses only simple statements for self-introduction, patient orientation to the therapeutic music session, and for obtaining the patient's permission when initiating the session and during the session.
- G. Refers patient needs to other members of the healthcare team when the needs are not within the Scope of Practice of a therapeutic musician.

2. Musical Proficiency

A CMP:

- A. Plays or sings in tune, with good intonation, and appropriate musical expression and dynamics.
- B. Plays appropriate repertoire.
- C. Is able to improvise on modes, scales and chord progressions as appropriate to the instrument used and with appropriate transitions.
- D. Can extend and adapt musical pieces to differing rhythm, meter and tempo as required by the patient's condition in-the-moment.
- E. Has a basic understanding of music theory.
- F. Understands and uses silence as an integral part of each musical offering.

3. Ethical and Professional Behavior

A CMP:

- A. Adheres to the MHTP Code of Ethics.
 - B. Practices within healthcare protocol, etiquette, and the facility's policies, structure and procedures.
 - C. Demonstrates a responsible attitude about personal identification, documentation, scheduling, infection control, hospital equipment and privacy.
 - D. Maintains patient rights, as well as confidentiality, within HIPAA rules.
 - E. Works harmoniously and unobtrusively with the healthcare team.
 - F. Obtains referrals following appropriate protocols.
 - G. Responds appropriately to public inquiries about the profession of Certified Music Practitioner® and therapeutic musicianship.
 - H. Conducts information-sharing sessions (in-services, etc.) providing accurate and appropriate information about, and within the scope of, therapeutic music, respecting the intellectual property rights of MHTP.
 - I. Assesses one's own behavior and performance in the light of professional and ethical standards.
 - J. Regularly practices a form of self care which fosters self-development and self-understanding, and provides a method to relieve the emotional and physical stresses of working in a therapeutic environment.
 - K. Strengthens practice as a Certified Music Practitioner® through continuing education as required by MHTP.
4. Education:
- A. Courses of study include but are not limited to: understanding the basics of health care and terminology, clinical protocols, hospital etiquette, deepening perceptual awareness, physics of sound, fundamentals of music theory, the effects of sound and music on human physiology, understanding palliative and curative care and music presentation.
 - B. Having met the course requirements for graduation, CMPs are required to remain current on research and new developments in the field of therapeutic music by obtaining 40 continuing education credits every 4 years.

Public Protection Mechanism and Disclaimer

Any person representing him or herself as a Certified Music Practitioner® shall practice within the MHTP Scope of Practice as defined above and adhere to the MHTP Code of Ethics. Any complaints made by the public against the CMP should be brought to the attention of the MHTP Board of Directors for investigation and possible disciplinary action.

Any person representing him or herself as a Certified Music Practitioner® must hold the credential awarded by MHTP, an international educational certification program which is accredited through the National Standards Board for Therapeutic Musicians.