



Ohio

[http://med.ohio.gov/Applicants/MassageTherapy\(MT\).aspx](http://med.ohio.gov/Applicants/MassageTherapy(MT).aspx)

Contact Information

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State Medical Board of Ohio
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Ohio defines massage therapy as the manipulation of soft tissues by applying massage techniques and joint movement within the normal range of motion. Please, read the definition below. SI is not exempted by name, but it is not clear if it is included under the statute due to the definition. Perhaps a local attorney could assist. Ohio statute is silent on specific acceptable exams, but the rules say the board will only accept the MBLEx. Note: The only healthcare professionals allowed on the board are physicians.

Law and Regulation

Statute Chapter 4731, Ohio Revised Code: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4731>

[4731.15 Regulating massage therapy and cosmetic therapy.](#)

(A)(1) The state medical board also shall regulate the following limited branches of medicine: massage therapy and cosmetic therapy, and to the extent specified in section [4731.151](#) of the Revised Code, naprapathy and mechanotherapy. The board shall adopt rules governing the limited branches of medicine under its jurisdiction. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(2) As used in this chapter:

(b) "Massage therapy" means the treatment of disorders of the human body by the manipulation of soft tissue through the systematic external application of massage techniques including touch, stroking, friction, vibration, percussion, kneading, stretching, compression, and joint movements within the normal physiologic range of motion; and adjunctive thereto, the external application of water, heat, cold, topical preparations, and mechanical devices.

[4731.16 Determination of standards; examinations.](#)

(B) The board may administer an examination of competency to practice a limited branch of medicine. If it administers an examination, the board shall establish by rule a fee to cover the cost of administering the examination. If it does not administer an examination, the board shall adopt rules under section [4731.05](#) of the Revised Code that specify both of the following:

- (1) An examination acceptable to the board as an examination of competency to practice a limited branch of medicine;
- (2) The score that constitutes evidence of passing the examination.

Regulation Ohio Administrative Code, 4731-1 State Medical Board
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4731>

Examination

4731-1-12 Application and examination for certificate to practice massage therapy.

(C) Any person seeking a certificate to practice massage therapy shall have passed the *MBLEx* available through the federation of state massage therapy boards.

State Medical Board of Ohio composition

Twelve members: nine physicians and three non-physician consumer members (who cannot be from health care field). All of the Board members are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms.

Board Members

<http://med.ohio.gov/ForthePublic/BoardMembers.aspx>

Meeting

<http://med.ohio.gov/ForthePublic/BoardMeetingCalendar.aspx>

Agendas

<http://med.ohio.gov/ForthePublic/BoardAgendas.aspx>

Minutes

<http://med.ohio.gov/ForthePublic/BoardMeetingMinutes.aspx>