

CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2024/21)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions / Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Central Sterile Supply Department Technicians (CSSD)/Medical Massage Therapists.All Healthcare Facilities/ focal points in the State of Qatar across both governmental and private sectors.
Subject	Inclusion of the CSSD Title and Medical Massage Therapist in the List of Recognized Allied Health Professions and Approval of their Scope of Practice and Registration Requirements
Date	01/09/2024

“Greetings from the department of Healthcare Professions (DHP),

In our ongoing efforts to align with the best regulatory practices regionally and internationally, and with a commitment to developing a regulatory framework that encompasses all Allied Health Professions to ensure patient safety and the quality of healthcare services, the Department of Healthcare Professions, based on the decisions of the Permanent Licensing Committee as follows:

- The decision regarding the "Medical Massage Therapist" title, approved by the Committee in its 3rd meeting for the year 2024 held on 05/02/2024.
- The decision regarding the "CSSD" title, approved by the Committee in its 14th meeting for the year 2024 held on 22/07/2024.

DHP hereby announces the inclusion of the titles "CSSD" and "Medical Massage Therapist" in the list of recognized Allied Health Professions by the Department of Healthcare Professions. The scope of practice and registration requirements for these scopes have also been approved.

Note: This circular is effective from the date of its issuance.

Attachments:

- National Registration Standards and Requirements for the title "CSSD."
- National Registration Standards and Requirements for the title "Medical Massage Therapist."

For further information, contact: dhpreistration@moph.gov.qa

Thank you for your cooperation, Department of Healthcare Professions

Criteria for National Registration Requirements – CSSD

Criteria	CSSD Technician
Introduction	<p>CSSD (Central Sterile Supply Department) technicians play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of medical procedures by properly sterilizing and maintaining medical equipment and instruments.</p> <p>CSSD technician provides the highest degree of support to patient care by managing the risk of infections through the provision of sterilized and /or high-level chemical disinfection medical devices. Their work ensures that patients avoid infections, and that doctors, nurses and allied health professionals have immediate access to the necessary instrumentation and equipment.</p> <p>The technician should have a strong understanding of anatomy, physiology, microbiology and infection control, the principles and practices of sterile processing and decontamination procedures.</p>
Practice Settings	<p>CSSD Technician practice in a wide variety of settings, such as hospitals, community health settings, long-term care facilities and clinics.</p>
Aim & Objective	<p>The objective of requiring CSSD technicians to obtain a license is to ensure the highest level of competency and professionalism in the field of sterile processing. By obtaining a license, CSSD technicians are required to meet certain standards and qualifications, which ultimately benefits both the technicians and the healthcare facilities where they work.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standardization of Skills and Knowledge: Requiring a license ensures that CSSD technicians have undergone standardized training and education in sterile processing techniques. This helps to establish a baseline level of skills and knowledge that all technicians must possess. 2 . Patient Safety: CSSD technicians play a critical role in preventing the spread of infections and ensuring the safety of patients. Requiring a license, that technicians have the necessary expertise to properly clean, sterilize, and handle medical instruments and equipment, reducing the risk of infections and complications. 3. Professionalism and Accountability: Obtaining a license demonstrates a commitment to professionalism and accountability. It signifies that CSSD technicians adhere to a code of ethics and are accountable for their actions and responsibilities in the field. 4 .Quality Assurance: Requiring a license helps to maintain and improve the quality of sterile processing services. It ensures that technicians are up to date with the latest industry standards, best practices, and technology advancements, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes.



	<p>5 .Career Advancement and Opportunities: Having a license can open opportunities for career advancement and professional growth. It may provide technicians with a competitive edge in the job market and increase their chances of securing higher-level positions or specialized roles within the field of sterile processing.</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Higher secondary school certificate with Certificate in CSSD (minimum one year course duration) or Diploma in any health- related field (minimum two years course duration) OR • Certificate in CSSD (minimum six months course duration) in addition to Certification as a member with one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certification by the Board of Sterile Processing and Distribution (CBSPD) USA. ○ Health Care Sterile Processing Sterile Association (HSPA)USA. <p>Exemption: Individuals who are currently practicing in the state of Qatar and do not meet the above academic qualifications need to be grandfathered with two years of work experience.</p>
Scope of Practice	<p>The scope of practice for CSSD (Central Sterile Supply Department) technicians involves various responsibilities related to decontamination, cleaning, sterilization, and management of surgical instruments, supplies, and medical devices. Here is a breakdown of their scope of practice :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decontamination: CSSD technicians are responsible for collecting and decontaminating dirty supplies and equipment They ensure proper cleaning and removal of contaminants from surgical instruments and medical devices. 2. Cleaning: CSSD technicians perform thorough cleaning of surgical instruments, supplies, and medical devices to remove any remaining debris or organic material This step is crucial to ensure effective sterilization. 3. Sterilization: CSSD technicians are trained in sterilization techniques and protocols. They operate sterilization equipment, such as autoclaves, to ensure that surgical instruments and medical devices are properly sterilized They follow specific guidelines and protocols to maintain sterility. 4. Instrument Assembly and Packaging: CSSD technicians are responsible for assembling and packaging surgical instruments and medical devices in a way that maintains their sterility They ensure that the instruments are properly organized and packaged for use in surgical procedures. 5. Inventory Management: CSSD technicians manage the inventory of surgical instruments, supplies, and medical devices They keep track of stock levels, order necessary items, and ensure that the inventory is properly organized and stored.



	Note: The scope of practice for CSSD technicians may vary slightly depending on the specific healthcare facility and its protocols. However, the above responsibilities are generally included in the scope of practice for CSSD technicians.
Licensure	Candidates should have a valid license/registration certificate accompanying the required years of experience.
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 2 years' experience as CSSD Technician. • For Qatari Nationals, Qatar Universities graduates, offspring of Qatari women or offspring of residents, please refer to the DHP Circular No.13/2023.
Competency validation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing the DHP licensing examination (if available), unless exempted, please refer to Circular No.24/2020, and the qualifying examination policy at the following link: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Documents/Qualifying%20Examination%20Policy.pdf • Verification of the educational qualifications and relevant graduate clinical experience.
Other Requirements for Evaluation & Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the DHP requirements for Registration/Evaluation at this link: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx
Requirements for License renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the DHP requirements for License Renewal at this link: https://dhp.moph.gov.qa/en/Pages/HowToRegisterToPracticeInQatar.aspx
<p>Note: For applicants with break in practice, please refer to the DHP Break in Practice at this link: Circular (14-2021) - Eng.pdf (moph.gov.qa)</p>	

References:

- [1] U.A.E (DHCR):
[Licensure Requirements for Allied Health Professionals Guidance for Applicants \(dhcc.ae\)](https://dhcc.ae/Licensure-Requirements-for-Allied-Health-Professionals-Guidance-for-Applicants)
- [2] Bahrain (NHRA)-
[Publication 005 Healthcare Professional Licensing Standards-Allied Healthcare Professional v1 17 March 2017 English.pdf \(nhra.bh\)](https://nhra.bh/Publication-005-Healthcare-Professional-Licensing-Standards-Allied-Healthcare-Professional-v1-17-March-2017-English.pdf)
- [3] Kuwait - MOH
[Kuwait Association of.. \(icdkwt.com\)](https://icdkwt.com/Kuwait-Association-of..)
- [4] Oman -MOH
[Guidelines - Ministry of Health \(moh.gov.om\)](https://moh.gov.om/Guidelines-Ministry-of-Health)
- [5] KSA- SCHS
[Practitioner | Saudi Commission for Health Specialties \(scfhs.org.sa\)](https://scfhs.org.sa/Practitioner)



Qualification and Experience Requirements for Medical Massage Therapist

Definition	Scope of practice	Qualification Requirements	Licensure	Experience Requirement
<p>Medical Massage therapy</p> <p>Is a therapeutic intervention that applies specialized manual techniques to manipulate the body's soft tissues, including muscles, tendons, joints, and ligaments. Health to get fir of muscles pain, heal injuries, relive stress and aid in the general wellness of clients.</p>	<p>Medical Massage therapists assess soft tissues and joints of the body for treatment and prevention of dysfunction, injury, pain, and physical disorder. They can practice in many places such as Hospitals and healthcare centers like elderly care centers, units for treatment of learning disabilities and mental disorders, wellness centers, drug treatment programs and pain clinics, private clinics).</p> <p>A Massage Therapist is a qualified health care professional who is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a pre-massage assessment including medical history, injuries history, medication history and allergy profile and preferred massage pressure level. • Evaluate clients prior to and during the massage to locate painful or tense areas of the body. • Manipulate muscles, tendons, ligaments, and other soft tissues of the body. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree in Complementary and Alternative Medicine field and a study of at least in Massaging of no less than (500) hours of practical. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated from a recognized Massage Therapy training program its equivalent of at least five hundred (500) hours of classes that is approved in state or country in which it is located, the minimum program requirements include: Anatomy, Physiology, pathology, Massage and/or body work, hygiene, and business and ethics. 	<p>Valid license/ registration certificate OR membership in recognized association that is approved in state or country (if applicable) accompanying the required years of experience</p>	<p>Two years fulltime Massage practice experience as a "Massage Therapist</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase range of motion through joint mobilization techniques. • Identify contraindications to massage. • Uphold client confidentiality and adhere to infection prevention and control protocols. • Obtain informed consent from the client. • Refer back to Physician once indicated. • Clients/ patients must be referred by Physician. • Provide advice on stretching, strengthening, overall relaxation, and improving their posture. • Document clients' conditions and progress. • Maintain records of treatments given. • May consult with other healthcare professionals when developing treatment plans for clients. • Suggest home care instructions for further postural improvement. • Clean their workspace and sanitize equipment. <p>The benefits of massage therapy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relaxation/invigoration. • relieve tension. • improved range of movement and flexibility. • improved circulation. • improved sleep patterns. • improved systemic function. 			
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References:

- Dubai Healthcare City Authority
<https://dhcc.ae/gallery/CAM%20licensure%20Guidelines.pdf>
- National health Regulatory Authority - Bahrain,
[https://www.nhra.bh/Media/Publications/MediaHandler/ImageHandler/documents/Publications/Publication%20006 HealthCare%20Professional%20Licensing%20Standards-Complementary%20and%20Alternative%20Medicine v1 17%20March%202017 English.pdf](https://www.nhra.bh/Media/Publications/MediaHandler/ImageHandler/documents/Publications/Publication%20006%20Healthcare%20Professional%20Licensing%20Standards-Complementary%20and%20Alternative%20Medicine%20v1%2017%20March%202017%20English.pdf)
- Massage New Zealand, <https://www.massagenewzealand.org.nz/Site/about-massage-therapy/scope-of-practice.aspx>
- Massage & Myotherapy, Australia, <https://www.massagemyotherapy.com.au/Home>
- Canadian Council of Massage Therapy Schools, <http://www.ccmts.ca/links.html>
- American institute of Alternative medicine, [Medical Massage Therapy School Columbus OH | AIAM](#)