

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH®: Activate Your Inner Healer

The Integrative Medical Model



The emerging holistic understanding of human health and wellness opens the door for creative new opportunities to develop services that will address the public demand for education and self-empowerment in health care and more focus on prevention and health promotion.

THERAPEUTIC TOUCH BACKGROUND AND TRENDS

- 1991 the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) acknowledged a role for complementary therapies, which includes Therapeutic Touch, in nursing care
- 2002 the Complementary Therapies Nurses Interest Group (CTNIG) recognized under the umbrella of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO)
- The Hospice Association of Ontario (HAO) used the standards and practices of The Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario (TTNO) as its model
- Therapeutic Touch is now used in many Ontario hospitals, LTC facilities, and hospices. Policies have been developed for its use on an individual facility basis

Examples include:

- The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto have specific Therapeutic Touch Policy for Nurses in place and interested staff

- Michael Garron hospital in Toronto has a Therapeutic Touch Program including practitioner screening and preceptorship
- Therapeutic Touch is provided to patients as they receive their chemotherapy in Oncology Units. at Guelph General Hospital and Groves Memorial Hospital in Fergus.
- Therapeutic Touch in hospice care is widespread in Ontario
- Recognized Practitioners are working in various long term care facilities throughout Ontario providing Therapeutic Touch to residents

APPLICATION AND AREAS OF USE

For its effectiveness in reducing anxiety, inducing relaxation, improving pain management, improving sleep, fostering a sense of well-being, and in reducing the accompanying sense of isolation in all areas of patient care including:

- cancer care
- labour and birth
- neonatal care
- medical and surgical units - also been used successfully intra-operatively
- trauma units
- emergency departments
- psychiatric units
- end of life care

EMERGING MODELS OF CARE

- patient centered, whole person caring during acute care
- rehabilitation focus
- ambulatory care
- community outreach
- prevention, healthy living, and survivorship
- self-care and self-empowerment

For more information contact the TTNO.

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