DRAPING PROTOCOL

This policy sets out Evolve College’s protocol regarding draping. It applies to all students of Evolve College.

Fundamental principles of Evolve College’s draping protocol

Evolve College is committed to setting a very high standard for Evolve College Massage students as well as the massage industry as a whole. Evolve College’s education sets the standard for students to support them in developing a strong professional footing on which to commence practice. A core part of the professionalism and ethics required of massage therapists is the practice of draping. The art and skill of draping has been central to the delivery of massage training by Evolve College’s founding owners and directors for approximately 20 years. Professionalism and draping are core components of what a massage student must learn in order to represent the industry to the degree required.

Privacy

A key aspect of draping is privacy, which is a very important aspect of massage therapy. Privacy, in Evolve College’s view, is closely tied to decency and respect, fundamental rights of every client visiting a massage practice. Evolve College teaches the absolute importance of privacy, decency and respect as hallmarks of massage practice that must never, ever be compromised.

Draping is also very important in terms of providing modesty and warmth during massage treatment.

Professionalism

Evolve College focuses on quality of training which produces professional, quality graduates. Evolve College’s draping protocol also addresses the very important aspect of client safety, practitioner professionalism and the avoidance at all times of inappropriate conduct.

Evolve College sets and practises an absolute prohibition on any sexual conduct or even overtones. Trainers have been trained to be able to identify any sexual or inappropriate conduct and carefully watch students in practice sessions or clinic to ensure this standard is upheld at all times. Evolve College’s approach to sexual or inappropriate conduct is a very strict one, in addressing what the College considers to be the client’s fundamental rights, breach of which may lead to immediate dismissal of a student. Details are given in the Zero Tolerance Policy on Inappropriate Conduct.

Strict Professional Boundaries

Appropriate draping sets a professional boundary between therapist and client. All areas of the body are draped except for the specific part of the body receiving treatment. Areas under the draping material are never massaged, touched or accessed by the therapist in any way and neither is the hand or any other part of the therapist’s body ever to lean on or touch any draped area.

The breast/chest region and groin, genital and perineum area must be draped at all times, and must never be touched or accessed in any way by the therapist.

The professional boundary set by draping is to be fully and strictly adhered to at all times, in accordance with the strict draping protocol as taught at the Evolve College Introductory Massage Course (IMC). No exceptions are permitted and Evolve College’s policy is uncompromising in this regard. See the Zero Tolerance Policy on Inappropriate Conduct.

Minimum clothing of the client

Massage therapists must:

- Ensure that all clients wear underpants during the massage treatment. Females are advised to keep their bra on, and prior consent should be sought if the bra is to be undone. If the bra is to be undone this may only be done with the client laying in prone
• Never under any circumstance adjust or move underpants. Adjustment of the waist line may only be done by the client in accordance with the protocol as taught by Evolve College
• Adhere to the following at all times when tucking draping material into the client’s underpants:
  o tuck draping material into the side of the body at the hips using the flip tuck technique to drape along the back, with the client laying in prone as taught by Evolve College
  o never tuck draping material into the front or front sides of underpants
  o never approach or touch the groin area under any circumstance

Client preference

Client preference is to be adhered to at all times without going outside the minimum draping standard of Evolve College, irrespective of whether the client requests to be draped or not, as part of the professionalism of the therapist.

Client dressing/undressing

The therapist must:
• Allow the client to dress and undress in private
• Not re-enter the room without knocking and confirming that the client is ready. If a client requires assistance with dressing or undressing, the client’s privacy and modesty should be maintained at all times and assistance should be provided with the highest degree of professionalism
• Allow the client to remain fully or partially clothed during treatment if they request this and, if so, adapt the treatment plan accordingly
• Provide the client with sufficient draping materials they can use to cover their body before leaving the room for them to undress
• Give clear verbal instructions on how the client should position themselves on the table and how to arrange the draping and supports
• Ensure that the client remains covered if they require assistance on and off the massage table

Draping practice

The therapist must:
• Explain draping procedures prior to the commencement of the session, give the client clear verbal instructions about draping and seek appropriate consent prior to commencement
• Use draping at all times, even if the client asks for it to be removed. Use lightweight draping if the client is too warm
• Ensure the client is fully and properly draped at all times according to the draping techniques taught at the Evolve College IMC. Use adequate and clean table covering and draping materials for each client
• Maintain draping close to the client’s body when changing their position on the table
• Ensure that draping is comfortable for the client as well as being secure and distinct
• Adjust the draping efficiently with prior consent if the client indicates discomfort verbally, through adjusting the draping themselves, or other body language
• Have a therapeutic rationale for any change of draping and adhere at all times to draping as taught by Evolve College
• Ensure clients dress in suitable clothing or wear a gown (over underpants (for all clients) and bra (for females)) during postural observations and during treatments that require frequent changes in positioning (e.g. exercise shorts and top). Informed consent must be obtained prior to postural observations and any other techniques that require the active participation of the client.
• Maintain the required professional standard of draping protocol at all times irrespective of how often a client receives treatment and/or how familiar they may be or become to the therapist. The standard of professionalism is to be upkept at all times, without exception
**Breach**

This protocol forms part of the Student Code of Conduct. Consequences of breach can include dismissal at Evolve College’s discretion in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.