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Practitioner Qualifications in Oncology Massage

The practitioner must have a strong basic education in massage, with advanced training specific to oncology massage work. As a certified oncology massage practitioner and instructor I find the following skills to be very important.

- Active listening skills
- Compassion and sensitivity for those living with illness
- Knowledge of cancer treatments and their side effects
- Critical thinking skills that enable clinical decision making
- Assessment skills and commitment to asking follow up questions
- Ability to adapt massage to client's changing needs
- Experience and advanced training in working with cancer clients
- Basic knowledge of clinical research in massage

Training in specific modalities such as Manual Lymph Drainage can also be very important and helpful.