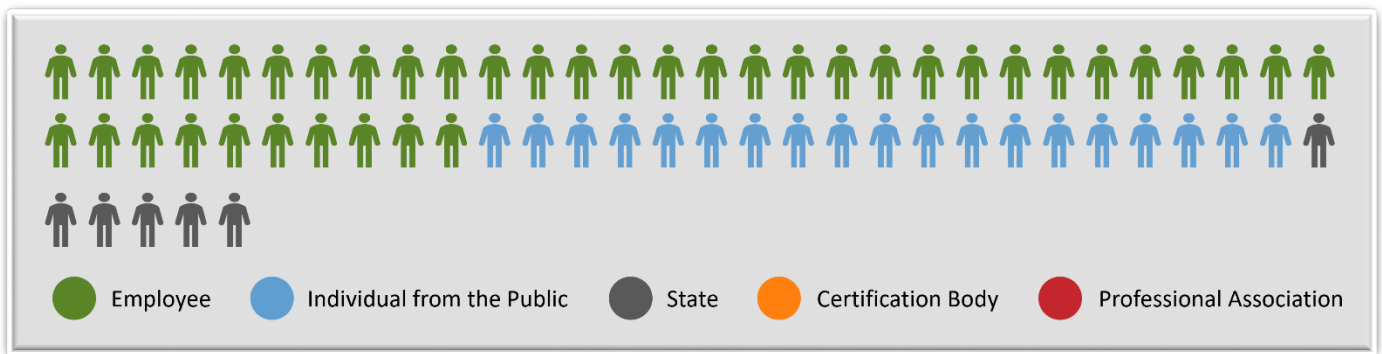


## VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR MASSAGE THERAPISTS Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing a national standard of practice for VA Massage Therapists which would standardize the scope of practice for these health care professionals in all VA medical facilities provided they have the proper education, training, and skills to perform the tasks and duties detailed in the national standard of practice.

On August 1, 2024, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Massage Therapists in the Federal Register ([89 FR 62868](#)) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters, including the proposed VA standard of practice, to the national certification body (National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork) and state licensing boards for Massage Therapists to provide an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested all comments on the Federal Register, VA's intranet site, and from the states and the certification body be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on September 30, 2024, and VA received 65 comments in total.



VA received 40 comments from VA employees, 19 comments from individuals from the public, and no comments from the national certification body. As of September 30, 2024, VA received comments from 6 out of the 52 state licensing boards for Massage Therapists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with states.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Massage Therapists in light of the comments, including those that present evidence-based practice and alternatives that help VA meet our mission and goals.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on <https://www.va.gov/standardsofpractice> once the VA standard of practice for Massage Therapists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.