

## Sports Massage: Professional Liability Insurance for CSP Student & Associate Members

### Important information

The CSP understands that many physiotherapy students undertake sports massage courses, and seek both paid and unpaid work in sports massage during the period of their pre-registration physiotherapy programme. The CSP has brokered a separate, additional insurance policy for student and associate members to provide cover for their sports massage activity.

Sports massage as an autonomous activity is not covered under the main CSP PLI scheme for physiotherapy student or associate members. This is because the fundamental requirement of the main CSP PLI scheme is that a physiotherapy student or associate member **always** works under the supervision of a registered healthcare professional and is not permitted to undertake any autonomous or unsupervised practice.

The separate sports massage policy for CSP student and associate members does not cover any physiotherapy activities. The policy is entirely unrelated and separate from the main CSP PLI scheme.

Student members who choose to undertake sports massage (as a paid or unpaid activity) outside of their physiotherapy degree programme **must** abide by what is set out below. Failure to do so could result in the withdrawal of their CSP student membership, and possible disciplinary action by the higher education institution at which they are enrolled. Whilst the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) does not regulate physiotherapy students, it does have powers to act against anyone perceived to be using a protected title inappropriately.

- When practising sports massage as an independent autonomous activity, physiotherapy students (and associate members) must not mislead their clients to believe that they are a qualified physiotherapist. To do so would be unlawful. This includes being clear that they are not either undertaking this activity as a physiotherapy student or practising within a limited scope of physiotherapy practice prior to full registration, i.e., they must not refer to themselves as a student physiotherapist. Sports massage in this context is a separate activity, for which physiotherapy students or associated members may choose to gain a qualification if they wish.
- Obtaining a sports massage qualification is not linked to partial completion of a pre-registration physiotherapy programme, and does not confer any right to practise physiotherapy.

In order to be eligible to obtain sports massage PLI via James Hallam [www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed/](http://www.jameshallam.co.uk/promed/) (the Society's insurance broker), individuals must meet the following criteria:

1. Hold current student or associate membership of the CSP
2. Hold a Level 3 (or higher) qualification in Sports Massage from a Sports Massage Association-accredited school, **or** Level 3 (or higher) Sports Massage Therapy certificate from an endorsed course offered by Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT), International Therapy Examination Council (ITEC) or Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology CIBTAC. No other qualifications are acceptable.
3. Retain their sports massage qualification certificate as proof of eligibility for the scheme.