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Qualified Mentor Policy Background information

Effective January 1, 2011, all HTP mentors will either be Qualified Mentors or supervised by a Qualified Mentor.

In essence the mentorship policy has switched from the requirement of having a nurse in the mentorship loop to having a Qualified Mentor in the mentoring relationship. This acknowledges the non-nurses in an equal role, which has been a long standing issue for many of our practitioners/mentors which put them at a disadvantage. HTP wants to honor all HTCPs as potential Qualified Mentors.

Background: Historically in the Healing Touch Program (HTP), it was required that either the mentee, the mentor, or the supervising mentor, be a nurse. As of April 1, 2010, , HTP transitioned to a new policy, which is being used to determine qualified mentors. The mentorship process is a vitally important part of the Healing Touch Program. It assures that HT Practitioner Apprentices are informed and prepared for Level 5 course completion/graduation and that graduates are prepared for HT Certification application.

This policy, titled the **Qualified Mentor (QM) Policy**, states that HTP mentors who apply for this new credential, and qualify, will no longer be required to have a nurse as part of the mentorship relationship(s).

Rationale for Change in Mentorship Policy

HTP reframed the mentorship relationship as an integral part of the HTP Professional Energy Medicine (EM) Educational Program. When Janet Mentgen was establishing Healing Touch as an adult educational program in the 1980s, she created it within the profession of nursing. This was a wise choice at the time, due to the infancy of Energy Medicine modalities. However, over the last twenty years, the field of Energy Medicine has surpassed the discipline of nursing into all areas of health care including exponential growth of EM practitioners who are health care professionals in other disciplines as well as dedicated lay persons without credentials in health care.

With the advancement of Energy Medicine programs in North America, HTP's perspective is that HTP graduates are professionals and therefore able to capably practice within the HTP Scope of Practice and Code of Ethics. This includes their ability to refer to other practitioners or to seek for assistance as needed in the case management of clients.

Therefore, it is no longer necessary to require a nurse in the mentorship relationship, whether it be as student mentee, mentor, or supervising mentor. While we value and nurture our relationship with the nursing profession as our foundation stone, we realize that we must stay current with the trends of healthcare and to value all of HTP's practitioners, whether or not they are nurses or health care professionals. After careful consideration, HTP determined that a satisfactory mentorship for a mentee is better assured through working with a mentor who has a history of successful mentoring, has current knowledge about HTP course and certification requirements, and has been acknowledged by peers and/or mentees as a capable mentor.