

Music practitioners are not therapists

[Music at the bedside](#)

- Who can benefit
- Research on healing music
- This is *not* music therapy
- Ethics & scope of practice
- An example session
- Practitioners in the news

[Playing therapeutically](#)

- Listen to examples
- About my training
- Responses from patients
- Where to find practitioners
- Resources & links

[Answers to FAQs](#)

[Contact me](#)



The media and some scientific literature often refer to any application of music in a healthcare setting as “music therapy.” This confuses the therapy that is done by board-certified music therapists.

Music therapy is a treatment program. Therapeutic music is a service.

A music therapist uses “music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship” ([music therapy defined](#)). On most of the music therapy websites, you will see a photograph of the music therapist working with a patient who is playing an instrument.

A Certified Music Practitioner® provides live, therapeutic music at the bedside and refrains from soliciting the patient’s participation.

Think of the difference between a physical therapist and a masseuse. Both have training, and both provide benefits, but the degree and the duration of interaction are different.



Certified Music Practitioner (CMP)	Board-Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC)
Has graduated from the Music for Healing and Transition Program™ .	Has completed a bachelor’s or master’s degree in Music Therapy.
Works one-on-one with patients at the bedside.	Works one-on-one, or with groups of patients, or with a patient and their family.
Meets the patient in the moment, creating a healing environment that addresses the condition or changing conditions that the patient is experiencing right now.	Creates a therapeutic goal to be realized over several planned sessions of therapy.
Provides music for the patient to receive passively.	Actively engages the patient in the music by having the patient play an instrument, write a song, or do other music activities.
Often sees a patient just once.	Usually sees patients regularly until the therapeutic goal is attained.

Read about [the code of ethics and scope of practice](#) for Certified Music Practitioners, or see ways to [contact me](#).



Salt Marsh, Cactus Island, New Jersey