

SWAMTA 2026 Conference Promotional Opportunity:
Medical Music Therapy and the Texas Medical Center: Clinical Education Experience
Conference "Collaboration is Key" to be held in Houston March 26 - 28, 2026

Date to be offered: March 26, 2026 (12:00 - 3:00 PM)

Format: Synchronous presentation

Date submitted to CBMT: 1/17/2026

Name of opportunity: Medical Music Therapy and the Texas Medical Center: Clinical Education Experience

Number of CMTEs offered: 3

Cost to participant: \$20 per credit hour (\$60)

Schedule:

12:00 - 12:50 — Orientation & Medical Music Therapy Introduction

What will be taught:

1. Overview of facility units and patient populations
2. How referrals work (protocols, timing, criteria)
3. Triage decision-making
4. How to educate staff on appropriate MT referrals
5. EMR communication & documentation practices
6. Safety documentation and identifying contraindications (intro level)

12:50 - 1:00 - Break

1:00 - 1:50 - Panel Presentations: Theory, Treatment Models, Safety & Ethics

What will be presented during the panel::

1. How theoretical orientation informs clinical strategies
2. Treatment models used in medical music therapy
3. How to adapt practice when music is medically contraindicated
4. Safety considerations in high-acuity environments
5. Ethical frameworks for decision-making
6. Interdisciplinary roles and music therapists' advocacy responsibilities

1:50 - 2:00 - Break

2:00 - 2:50 - Scenario-Based Learning with Structured Group Experiences

Group Learning Experience 1 — Interdisciplinary Referral Scenario

1. Write a sample referral message or email
 - a. Practice ethical communication
 - b. Identify contraindications and risk factors
 - c. Reinforce triage decision-making
 - d. Use EMR-aligned language

Group Learning Experience 2 — Advocacy & Interdisciplinary Integration Role-Play

1. Deliver an advocacy pitch to a medical director
 - a. Use outcomes data and EMR examples
 - b. Strengthen interprofessional communication
 - c. Demonstrate the value of MT services

2:50 - 3:00 - Break (prepare for optional tours)

After the conclusion of the CMTE, participants will have the optional opportunity to tour nearby hospital settings led by the instructors, who are hospital employees.

3:00 - 5:00 - Optional Tours (Described Below)

Prerequisites: None

Presenters:

Virginia B. Gray, MT-BC
Brittney Woolbright, B.M., MT-BC
Eleanore Scott, B.M., MT-BC
Morgan Wood, B.M., MT-BC
Marial Biard, MM, MT-BC, NMT™-F
Jacque Brown, MM, MT-BC
Maribeth Brinkley, MT-BC, NICU™-MT
Hannah Bilski, MT-BC, NICU-MT, NMT™
Maegan Morrow, MT-BC
Ingrid S. Moeller, MA, MT-BC, NMT™-F
Melissa Melo, MS, MT-BC

Presenter Qualifications:

Virginia B. Gray, MT-BC, is the Creative Arts Therapies Clinical Educator at Houston Methodist. With 18+ years of clinical experience in behavioral health, medical, and acute and critical care,

she supports interdisciplinary research, publishes in peer-reviewed journals, and prepares music therapists for collaborative practice across complex healthcare teams.

Brittney Woolbright, B.M., MT-BC: Appalachian State University alumni and MT-BC, completed her internship in the pediatric medical setting at Texas Children's Hospital. She presently works at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital as a unit-based music therapist for their Level IV NICU.

Eleanore Scott, B.M., MT-BC has been a board-certified music therapist for 4 years. At Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital (CMHH) she provides music therapy services to patients across multiple acute care areas with varying diagnosis and life experiences. In her clinical practice, Eleanore works within an eclectic approach with a humanistic foundation.

Morgan Wood, B.M., MT-BC: After almost a decade in the field, Morgan Wood has specialized in pediatric music therapy for the last 7.5 years at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. Morgan has a passion for learning, mentoring, and providing compassionate support to patients, families, and co-workers.

Marial Biard, MM, MT-BC, NMT™-F, is the Acute Care Music Therapist and Education Director at Texas Children's Hospital. She is faculty at University of Houston as a Professor of Arts in Healthcare. Marial has presented around the world, is published in leading research journals, and is internationally awarded for her groundbreaking contributions and compassionate innovation in pediatric healthcare.

Jacque Brown, MM, MT-BC, specializes in medical music therapy, and currently works with Houston Methodist in the medical and surgical ICU at Sugar Land. She obtained her Master of Music Therapy from Texas Woman's University after a career as a musical theater performer and singer. Jacque has experience in pediatrics, NICU, antepartum, and critical care. She is passionate about family-centered care, procedural support for adult patients, and integration into multidisciplinary teams.

Maribeth Brinkley, MT-BC, NICU™-MT serves as a NICU Music Therapist at Texas Children's Hospital. After completing clinical internship at WVU Medicine, Maribeth received a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from the University of Alabama. In her role, she serves as a student supervisor, research clinician, and volunteer coordinator.

Hannah Bilski, MT-BC, NICU-MT, NMT™ has been a music therapist for three years. She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Sam Houston State University and completed an internship at Texas Children's Hospital, where she currently serves NICU patients and their families.

Maegan Morrow, MT-BC, brings 20 years of neurologic music therapy™ expertise to Houston Methodist The Woodlands. Known for her work with Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and

twice honored as ABC's "Person of the Week," she integrates neuroscience, evidence-based practice, clinical skill, and insight into human psychology in PM&R and stroke care.

Ingrid S. Moeller, MA, MT-BC, NMT™-F, brings two decades of neurologic and integrative music therapy experience to MD Anderson's Integrative Medicine Center. A skilled clinician and presenter, she has served diverse patient populations and is widely recognized for her warm, person-centered approach to healing and collaborative care.

Melissa Melo, MS, MT-BC, is the Faris Foundation music therapist at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital, integrating creativity into care for pediatric oncology patients. Trained in hospice, palliative, and neurologic music therapy, she holds music therapy degrees from Molloy College and Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

Abstract:

Discover medical music therapy programs at Houston Methodist, Texas Children's, Memorial Hermann Children's, and MD Anderson through expert-led presentations, panels, and interactive Q&A. Explore referral systems, treatment models, collaboration, and advocacy. Optional post-session tours deepen learning. Accommodations for mobility, sensory, or other accessibility considerations will be provided upon request.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will describe referral systems, triage procedures, and best practices for educating healthcare staff on appropriate music therapy referrals across inpatient and outpatient medical settings.
 - a. Domain II: Referral — Task 8, 9, 10; Knowledge 2A-1, 2A-2
 - i. Task 8 – Develop, implement, and/or utilize appropriate referral system for the setting
 - ii. Task 9 – Educate staff/treatment team on referral criteria.
 - iii. Task 10 – Evaluate and prioritize the appropriateness of a referral
 - iv. Knowledge 2A-1 – Referral system processes and criteria for determining eligibility
 - v. Knowledge 2A-2 – Communication of referral processes and criteria with other professionals.
 - b. Domain V: Professional Responsibilities — Task 67
 - i. Task 67 – Serve as a representative, spokesperson, ambassador, or advocate for the profession (applies when educating hospital staff)

2. Participants will explain how theoretical frameworks and treatment models inform clinical decision-making, including adaptations required for medical contraindications and safety considerations in high-acuity medical environments.
 - a. Domain III: Implementation — Knowledge 3A-6, Tasks 38, 32
 - i. Knowledge 3A-6 – Theoretical frameworks for treatment implementation (supports orientation → decision-making).
 - ii. Task 38 – Apply theoretical frameworks and principles within clinical decision-making processes (direct match)
 - iii. Task 32 – Implement modifications/adaptations throughout treatment (relevant for contraindications)
 - b. Domain I: Safety — Tasks 2, 3; Knowledge 1C
 - i. Task 2 – Recognize potential harm/contraindications of music experiences and adapt treatment as necessary (direct match)
 - ii. Task 3 – Recognize contraindications of verbal/physical interventions and adapt (applies to high-acuity care)
 - iii. Knowledge 1C – Client-specific safety considerations (diagnosis, symptoms, trauma, medication) relevant to "high-acuity" settings)
3. Participants will identify strategies for effective interdisciplinary collaboration and describe advocacy approaches used by medical music therapists to communicate value, support clinical integration, and represent the profession within complex healthcare systems.
 - a. Domain III: Implementation — Task 36; Knowledge 3A-4
 - i. Task 36 – Engage the client in individualized treatment within multiple domains, often requiring coordination with other professionals
 - ii. Knowledge 3A-4 – Collaboration with other professionals to promote accessibility and support progress (direct match for interdisciplinary collaboration).
 - b. Domain V: Professional Responsibilities — Task 63, 67; Knowledge 5B-3, 5B-9
 - i. Task 63 – Maintain professional/effective working relationships with colleagues and community members (directly covers interdisciplinary teamwork)
 - ii. Task 67 – Serve as an advocate/ambassador for the profession (direct match for advocacy).
 - iii. Knowledge 5B-3 – Principles of social justice and client advocacy (supports advocacy content).
 - iv. Knowledge 5B-9 – Advocacy for the music therapy profession (direct match)

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

Refunds requested on or before March 12, 2026 will be returned in full. After March 12, 2026, partial refunds or exceptions for hardship will be given at the discretion of the board.

Statement of Relationship:

Medical Music Therapy and the Texas Medical Center: Clinical Education Experience is approved by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) for 3 Continuing Music Therapy Education credits. The Southwestern Region of the American Music Therapy Association, P-055 maintains responsibility for program quality and adherence to CBMT policies and criteria.

Optional Tours Description**3:00- 3:15 arriving to site #1**

3:15 – 3:45 First Site Tour (Choice one: CMHH, TCH, MDA, HMH) Participants will be divided into small groups (8–15 participants) to ensure safety, accessibility, and meaningful discussion.

3:45- 4:00 Returning to Marriott**4:00- 4:15 arriving to site #2**

4:15 – 4:45 Second Site Tour (Choice two: CMHH, TCH, MDA, HMH) Participants will be divided into small groups (8–15 participants) to ensure safety, accessibility, and meaningful discussion.

4:45- 5:00 Returning to Marriott