



College of  
Registered  
Psychotherapists  
of Ontario

Type of policy: Registration	Approved by: Registration Committee
Date approved: Nov. 5, 2020	Next Review date:
Amendment dates: Feb. 9, 2024	

## Clinical Experience for Registration Policy

### Purpose

To protect the public, the College needs to ensure that Registered Psychotherapists have gained entry-to-practice competencies through supervised practice of psychotherapy. This policy clarifies what clinical experience the College considers adequate for acquiring and refining these competencies. Clinical experience refers to direct client contact (DCC) and clinical supervision. This policy should enable applicants and registrants to determine whether their clinical experience will be accepted for registration purposes.

### Sources of Authority

#### *Regulated Health Professions Act Code*

Objects of College

3 (1) The College has the following objects:

2. To develop, establish and maintain standards of qualification for persons to be issued certificates of registration

#### *Psychotherapy Act*

Scope of practice

3. The practice of psychotherapy is the assessment and treatment of cognitive, emotional or behavioural disturbances by psychotherapeutic means, delivered through a therapeutic relationship based primarily on verbal or non-verbal communication. 2007, c. 10, Sched. R, s. 3.

#### *Authorized Act*

4. In the course of engaging in the practice of psychotherapy, a member is authorized, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on his or her certificate of registration, to treat, by means of psychotherapy technique delivered through a therapeutic relationship, an individual's serious disorder of thought, cognition, mood, emotional regulation, perception or memory that may seriously impair the individual's judgement, insight, behaviour, communication or social functioning. 2007, c. 10, Sched. R, s. 4.

### Registration Regulation

#### *Definitions*

1. In this Regulation,

"clinical supervision" refers to a professional relationship where the individual who is receiving supervision is engaged in a collaborative learning process with a clinical supervisor, which relationship is designed to,



- (a) promote the professional growth of the supervisee,
- (b) enhance the supervisee's safe and effective use of the self in the therapeutic relationship,
- (c) foster discussion of the direction of therapy and the therapeutic relationship, and
- (d) safeguard the well-being of patients;

#### Registered Psychotherapist class, registration requirements

6. (1) Subject to section 7 and subsection 13 (2), the following are non-exemptible registration requirements for a Registered Psychotherapist certificate of registration:

3. The applicant must have successfully completed clinical experience in psychotherapy that includes at least 450 hours of direct patient [client] contact and at least 100 hours of clinical supervision where that clinical supervision relates to those hours of direct patient [client] contact.

(7) In order to qualify as clinical experience for the purposes of paragraph 3 of subsection (1), the hours of clinical experience must be undertaken subsequent to the applicant's commencement of the program, education or training referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection (1).

#### Registered Psychotherapist class, conditions, etc., of certificate

8. (1) Every Registered Psychotherapist certificate of registration is subject to the following terms, conditions and limitations:

1. The member must practise psychotherapy with clinical supervision until such time that he or she,
  - i. has completed at least 1000 hours of direct patient contact; and
  - ii. has completed at least 150 hours of clinical supervision related to the 1000 hours of direct patient contact referred to in subparagraph i.

#### Policy

Clinical experience in psychotherapy, such as a placement completed in conjunction with education, employment, private practice, or volunteer positions, must meet the following criteria to be counted towards registration requirements for transferring from Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) to Registered Psychotherapist and for Registered Psychotherapist independent practice (i.e. practise without clinical supervision):

- Hours must take place after the applicant/registrant's education program began. Hours completed before the education program will not be accepted. For clarity, "education program" means the earliest psychotherapy program accepted by CRPO for registration purposes.
- Clinical experience positions must fall within the scope of practice of psychotherapy, which includes both assessment and treatment. See the "Modalities of Psychotherapy" under Related Policies (below) for a list of prescribed therapies and modalities the College considers to be within the practice of psychotherapy.



- Clinical experience positions consisting primarily or exclusively of “Activities Outside the Controlled Act of Psychotherapy” will not be counted for registration. See the “Activities Outside the Controlled Act of Psychotherapy” under Related Policies (below) for a list of activities the College considers as outside the controlled act of psychotherapy.
- Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) Registrants shall receive clinical supervision regarding all clinical experience positions. That is, none of the clinical experience positions shall be unsupervised.
- Registered Psychotherapist Registrants without independent practice shall receive clinical supervision regarding all clinical experience positions. That is, none of the clinical experience positions shall be unsupervised.
- At least 50 out of 100 clinical supervision hours to transfer from Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) to Registered Psychotherapist shall be in individual/dyadic format. At least 25 of the remaining 50 clinical supervision to total 150 clinical supervision hours for Registered Psychotherapist independent practice shall be in individual/dyadic format. Reported group supervision shall not include more than 8 supervisees.
- Clinical supervision must meet CRPO’s definition of clinical supervision and be provided by an individual who meets CRPO’s definition of a clinical supervisor at the time the supervision was provided.
- DCC must meet CRPO’s definition of DCC.
- DCC must be confirmed in writing by an employer, educational institution, or clinical supervisor. Confirmation in writing from a professional colleague experienced in psychotherapy may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Clinical supervision must be confirmed in writing by a clinical supervisor or educational institution. Confirmation in writing from a professional colleague experienced in psychotherapy may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Clinical supervision hours must be in relation to DCC hours that are accepted by the College.
- If clinical supervision hours for a clinical experience position are not accepted, any corresponding DCC hours that occurred after the registrant’s registration date will not be accepted.
- There must be reasonable grounds to support that the applicant/registrant practises in a safe and professional manner.

### **Related Policies and Definitions**

[Modalities of Psychotherapy](#)

[Activities Outside the Controlled Act of Psychotherapy](#)