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Policy on Standard Review

Purpose

In professional regulation, a standard is the minimum expectation regarding a registrant's conduct. While standards can be unwritten expectations held by the profession, many are codified by the regulator following research and consultation with the public and profession. CRPO uses the Professional Practice Standards for Registered Psychotherapists for a number of purposes, for example:

- To communicate the minimum level of performance expected of all registrants
- As evidence in disciplinary hearings; and
- To establish benchmarks for professional behaviour which are used in QA programming and education and monitoring programs

Given the centrality of the standards, it is necessary that any standards issued by CRPO are up-to-date and effective.

Scope

This policy applies to all members of staff involved in the Standards review process.

Policy

Evidence-initiated review process

CRPO gathers evidence relating to standards on an ongoing basis. Evidence may be generated from a variety of sources, including but not limited to:

- Stakeholder feedback;
- Legal development;
- Research articles;
- The practices of other regulators or professional associations;
- Expert opinions; and
- Data from CRPO's departments

Evidence will be screened to determine whether immediate review or revision to any standard is required.

Time-based review process

If the evidence-initiated process described above has not prompted a review of a standard within a five-year period, CRPO will initiate a review of the standard.

Review criteria

Standards are reviewed in light of:

- Internal and external evidence and data;
- The risk posed to clients/the public;
- The current practice environment;
- Alignment with other health regulatory colleges (where appropriate, for example where practice matters overlap);
- Expectations of the public; and
- Stakeholder views and feedback

Maintaining a record

CRPO will retain reviews and draft revisions to the Professional Practice Standard for at least three years, while surveys and consultations will be retained for at least seven years, and approved changes to the Standards will be kept indefinitely.