

Type of policy: Regulatory	Approved by: Quality Assurance Committee & Council
Date approved: September 16, 2021	Next Review date: September 2024
Amendment dates:	

Standard Review Policy

Background

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
- To establish benchmarks for professional behaviour which are used in QA programming and education and monitoring programs

The Standards are also used by registrants and stakeholders. For example, registrants will use the Standards to understand what is expected of them generally. They may also use the Standards to understand specific legal obligations or to address specific matters that arise in practice.

Educators, clinical supervisors and employers rely on standards to understand the obligations of those working within the profession, and, among other things, may rely on the standards as they assess or manage the performance of students, employees and supervisees.

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

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
- 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:

- i. evidence and data
- ii. the risk posed to clients/the public
- iii. the current practice environment
- iv. alignment with other health regulatory colleges (where appropriate, for example where practice matters overlap)
- v. expectations of the public
- vi. stakeholder views and feedback

Maintaining a record

CRPO maintains a log of reviews and revisions to the *Professional Practice Standards*.