

THE COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS OF ONTARIO

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Excerpts relevant to the preparation of reports related to the Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule on behalf of claimants or insurers.

Psychological Services refer to services of a psychological nature that are provided by or under the direction of a member. Psychological services include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

- a. Evaluation, diagnosis and assessment of individuals and groups

3. Meeting Client Needs

3.1 Responsibility for Psychological Services

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3.3 Potential Conflict between the Needs of Individual Clients and those of Corporate Clients

The provision of psychological services on behalf of a corporate client does not diminish a member's obligations and professional responsibilities to the individual client.

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12. Professional Objectivity

12.1 Compromised Objectivity, Competence or Effectiveness Due to Relational Factors

A member shall not undertake or continue to provide psychological services with an individual client when the objectivity, competence or effectiveness of the member is, or could reasonably be expected to be, impaired because of the member's present or previous familial, social, sexual, emotional, financial, supervisory, political, administrative, or legal relationship with the client or a relevant person associated with the client. This prohibition does not apply if the services are delivered to a corporate client and the nature of the professional relationship is neither therapeutic nor vulnerable to exploitation.

12.2 Compromised Objectivity, Competence or Effectiveness Due to Other Factors

A member shall not undertake or continue to provide psychological services when personal, scientific, professional, legal, and financial or other interests could reasonably be expected to:

- a) impair his/her objectivity, competence or effectiveness in delivering psychological services; or
- b) expose the client to harm or exploitation.

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14. Assessment and Intervention

14.1 Familiarity with Tests and Techniques

Members shall be familiar with the standardization, norms, reliability, and validity of any tests and techniques used and with the proper use and application of these tests and techniques.

14.2 Familiarity with Interventions

Members shall be familiar with the evidence for the relevance and utility of the interventions used and with the proper use and application of these interventions.

14.3 Rendering Opinions

A member shall render only those professional opinions that are based on current, reliable, adequate, and appropriate information.

14.4 Identification of Limits of Certainty

A member shall identify limits to the certainty with which diagnoses, opinions, or predictions can be made about individuals or groups.

14.5 Freedom from Bias

A member shall provide professional opinions that are clear, fair and unbiased. A member shall make reasonable efforts to avoid the appearance of bias.

14.6 Clarity of Communication

A member shall make reasonable efforts to present information in a manner that is likely to be understood by the client.

14.7 Documentation of Sources of Data

(1) When, as part of a psychological service, a member conducts a review of a client record and the evaluation of the client is not necessary, the member shall document this and indicate the sources of information used to form his/her opinions.

(2) In situations in which all reasonable attempts have been made to conduct an evaluation of a client but a complete evaluation is not possible, a member shall ensure that the efforts made to conduct the evaluation and the obstacles encountered are documented. Additionally, a member shall indicate the extent to which the availability of only limited information influenced the certainty of his/her opinion.