**Definition of Clinical Supervisor**

**DRAFT v. 1.6 for consultation**

**Background Information**

* CRPO is reviewing its policies regarding clinical supervision.
* CRPO reported [findings and recommendations](https://www.crpo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Council-Meeting-3.pdf#page=12) to its Council in September 2022. A major theme is balance: the requirements should not overly restrict the ability to provide or receive clinical supervision, nor should they compromise the quality of clinical supervision.
* This document proposes incremental changes to who can serve as a clinical supervisor for the purpose of registration with CRPO.

**Highlights of Proposed Changes**

* The proposed definition would take effect on April 1, 2026. This provides approximately three years’ notice to the profession to meet the requirements.
* The definition clarifies that a clinical supervisor has five years of experience practising psychotherapy *starting from the time they graduated from their psychotherapy education or training program.* Internationally trained bridging program graduates are permitted to count their experience since graduating from their international psychotherapy education.
* New clinical supervisors as of April 1, 2026, are expected to have completed 30 hours of coursework on providing clinical supervision. CRPO will publish guidelines on course content. Those who began providing clinical supervision prior to April 1, 2026, are not expected to meet this requirement, but are encouraged to do so.
* Clinical supervisors will complete CRPO’s online learning module on clinical supervision (to be developed).
* The definition for clinical supervisors outside Ontario has minor wording changes for clarity but is substantially the same.

**Draft Revised Definition**

**Clinical Supervisor in Ontario**

As of April 1, 2026, a clinical supervisor must be a regulated practitioner of psychotherapy in good standing with their College\*, who has extensive clinical experience, generally five years or more, in the practice of psychotherapy, and who has demonstrated competence in providing clinical supervision.

The Registration Committee and Council have approved the following criteria for demonstrating competence in providing clinical supervision:

1. The supervisor must be registered in good standing with a regulatory college whose members may practise psychotherapy.\*
2. The supervisor must have five years’ extensive[[1]](#footnote-1) clinical experience practising psychotherapy from the time they graduated from their psychotherapy education or training program.
3. The supervisor must meet CRPO’s “independent practice” requirement (completion of 1000 direct client contact hours and 150 hours of clinical supervision).
4. The supervisor must have completed 30 hours of directed learning in providing clinical supervision. For individuals who begin providing clinical supervision on or after April 1, 2026, this refers to 30 hours of coursework on providing clinical supervision. For individuals who began providing clinical supervision before April 1, 2026, directed learning can include course work, supervised practice as a clinical supervisor, individual/peer/group learning, and independent study that includes structured readings.
5. The supervisor must complete CRPO’s learning module on clinical supervision.

CRPO staff may request evidence of completion of the 30 hours of directed learning in providing clinical supervision and may also request a letter of verification and a statement describing the supervisor’s approach to providing supervision.

Upon request, a clinical supervisor should be able to provide their supervisee with a letter attesting to their competency, as set out in items 1 through 5 above. It is not necessary to submit this to the CRPO unless it is specifically requested by staff.

\*Refers to College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario, College of Nurses of Ontario, College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, College of Psychologists of Ontario, Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers.

**Clinical Supervisor Outside Ontario**

Outside Ontario, a clinical supervisor is an experienced practitioner of psychotherapy qualified, generally by another regulator in a regulated jurisdiction, or by a professional association in an unregulated jurisdiction, to provide clinical supervision.

1. Extensive means having had the opportunity to encounter a range of client presenting issues and apply a variety of skills in one’s practice. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)