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| **Type of policy**: Regulatory   | **Approved by**: Council  |
| **Date approved**: June 22, 2023  | **Next Review date**: April 2029  |
| **Amendment dates:**   |   |

**Definition of Clinical Supervisor**

**Highlight of Changes from Previous Definition**

* This definition takes effect on April 1, 2026.
* 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 free, short, low-stakes online learning module on clinical supervision (to be developed).

**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 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.