	Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists Limited 香港臨床心理學家公會有限公司	Document No.	HKICP-CPD-PO-009-R0
	Scope of Practice for Clinical Psychologists in Hong Kong	Issue Date	31/07/2019
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		Approved by	Board of Directors
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# Scope of Practice for Clinical Psychologists in Hong Kong

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**(Distribution list: This Policy should be read by all staff and members of HKICP, Professional Council and its committees, and the general public.)**

## 1. Objectives

- 1.1 This document puts forth a general description of the scope of clinical psychology practice that applies to the registrants of Hong Kong Institute of Clinical Psychologists (HKICP).
- 1.2 It supports accredited clinical psychologists on the Register of HKICP to maintain a high quality in services and practice.
- 1.3 In addition, it informs regulators, government, service providers, educators and the public about the professional services provided by accredited clinical psychologists.

## 2. Definitions

- 2.1 A Clinical Psychologist (CP) is a professional practicing an area of applied psychology. CP adopts an evidence-based approach to promote psychological well-being and address psychological problems, which include a wide range of developmental, emotional, behavioral and mental disorders with varied severity and complexity.
- 2.2 A service recipient is any person receiving service from a CP. Service recipients typically include, but are not limited to, individuals suffering from psychological problems, healthcare professionals seeking relevant support, clinical psychology trainees and the general public.

## 3. Professional Roles and Responsibilities

The primary goal of clinical psychology practice is to promote psychological well-being and address psychological problems of the public. The goal will be pursued through the following means, and in collaboration with other healthcare professionals where applicable:

### 3.1 Clinical Services

- 3.1.1 Utilization of psychological models to guide professional practice;

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- 3.1.2 Assessment and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental disorders, adjustment to changes, risk of self-injurious behaviours, neurocognitive functioning, psychopathologies and other relevant psychological problems;
- 3.1.3 Generation of diagnostic formulation based on outcomes of assessment, psychological theory, research and explanatory models;
- 3.1.4 Evidence-based intervention and rehabilitation services targeting the psychological problems;
- 3.1.5 Assessment of prognosis and relapse prevention;
- 3.1.6 Consultation to other healthcare professionals;
- 3.1.7 Coordination of care in an interdisciplinary context;
- 3.1.8 Documentation of progress.

### 3.2 **Prevention, Promotion and Advocacy**

- 3.2.1 Supply and dissemination of psychoeducational information regarding psychological well-being, identification and management of various psychological disorders;
- 3.2.2 Participation in the development of mental health policy to increase public awareness of the impact of different mental disorders and related social problems, including stigmatization;
- 3.2.3 Promotion of and advocacy for the clinical psychology profession.

### 3.3 **Education and Research**

- 3.3.1 Participation in professional training programmes, research activities, conventions and seminars for continuous professional development;
- 3.3.2 Provision of training and development of programmes for fellow clinical psychologists or other healthcare professionals;
- 3.3.3 Delivery of clinical psychology-related knowledge and training to students in academic institutions;
- 3.3.4 Provision of clinical placement opportunities and supervision to clinical psychology trainees;
- 3.3.5 Organization and delivery of educational talks and seminars targeting relevant service recipients;
- 3.3.6 Evaluation and synthesis of scientific evidence to improve practice;

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- 3.3.7 Design, implementation and report of empirical studies in the field of clinical psychology;
- 3.3.8 Conducting of research to further the development of knowledge and practice in mental health-related issues.

### 3.4 Administration

- 3.4.1 Management and coordination of clinical psychology services provided;
- 3.4.2 Involvement in planning, development, implementation and review of programmes, placement settings, policies and guidelines pertaining to the profession of clinical psychology in Hong Kong;
- 3.4.3 Management of staff related to clinical psychology services.

## 4. Practice Settings

- 4.1 Clinical Psychologists work in a variety of settings which include, but not limited to:
  - 4.1.1 Hospitals,
  - 4.1.2 Government agencies, including but not limited to Correctional Services Department, Department of Health, Social Welfare Department, Police Force and Fire Services Department,
  - 4.1.3 Non-governmental Organizations,
  - 4.1.4 Tertiary education institutions,
  - 4.1.5 Private practice.
- 4.2 The diversity of work settings for CPs would change with the development of psychological services in the community.

## 5. Service Recipients

Clinical Psychologists work for the benefit of service recipients across the lifespan and with diverse backgrounds, both directly and indirectly.

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## 5.1 Direct clinical psychology services

- 5.1.1 Direct clinical psychology services, usually in the form of assessment and intervention, are rendered to people suffering from psychological problems that impaired their functioning in different aspects of life.
- 5.1.2 The general public would benefit directly from public talks and workshops conducted by CPs, and indirectly from policies and programmes developed to raise mental health awareness.

## 5.2 Indirect clinical psychology services

Indirect clinical psychology services, usually in the form of skill and knowledge transfer, are provided through collaboration with other healthcare professionals and service providers.

### 5.2.1 Consultation

CPs offer advice on treatment to other healthcare professionals that meet the needs of service recipients based on psychological theories and research findings.

### 5.2.2 Clinical supervision


CPs provide on-site supervision to clinical psychology trainees in order to enable them to acquire the clinical skills necessary for attaining a satisfactory level of professional competence.

## 6. Professional conduct

Clinical Psychologists always deliver services within relevant legal and professional boundaries. All accredited CPs are to abide by the Code of Ethics of HKICP (HKICP-ECI-PO-001-R0).

## 7. Reference Documents

- 7.1 Hospital Psychological Association. (2018). Clinical Psychology. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/clinical.aspx>
- 7.2 The British Psychological Society. (2011). Guidelines for Clinical Psychology Services. Retrieved from <https://www1.bps.org.uk/system/files/Public%20files/DCP/cat-804.pdf>

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7.3 The British Psychological Society. (2015). Standards of Proficiency – Practitioner Psychologists. Retrieved from [https://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002963SOP Practitioner psycho](https://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10002963SOP_Practitioner_psychology.pdf)



The Department of Health announced on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 that HKICP was granted full accreditation status under the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions.