

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

	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
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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_psychology.pdf