

The information in this Practice Support checklist is intended to provide general guidance to assist registrants in identifying issues and options that should be considered, and implementing strategies to address issues, resolve problems and improve practice, with respect to a particular aspect of psychology practice. No checklist can anticipate all variables that might be relevant to a specific professional decision or circumstance, but the checklist can provide general guidance to registrants dealing with the identified practice issue. Registrants are also invited to contact the Practice Support Service with any questions.

Readers are advised that documents provided by the Practice Support Service are not legal advice, and do not supplant any applicable legislation, the College's Code of Conduct, its Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility and Anti-racism Standard, or any other official College communications or professional standards. While an effort has been made to be comprehensive, the information in this checklist is not exhaustive, and the College makes no warranty or representation as to its currency, completeness or accuracy. The College accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions, and expressly disclaims any such responsibility.

This checklist does not establish standards, limits or conditions for registrants' practice for the purposes of the Health Professions Act, and it is not intended to impose mandatory requirements to the extent that such requirements are not established under the Code of Conduct or the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility and Anti-racism Standard. In the case of any inconsistency between this checklist and any Code standard or the Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility and Anti-racism Standard, the Code standard or Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility and Anti-racism Standard governs. The final decision on the course of action to be taken in any practice situation is made by the registrant, and checklists are not intended as a substitute for the professional judgment and responsibility of the registrant. Exclusive reliance on checklists is imprudent, as every practice decision depends on its own particular circumstances.

This document may not be copied in part. Registrants wishing to copy it in its entirety must keep this disclaimer attached and must identify it as a College of Psychologists of B.C. Practice Support document. For ease of reference, select Code standards are indicated in brackets following checklist items. Registrants are obligated to consider any other Code standards and legislation that may be relevant to a specific practice situation. All references to the Code of Conduct and other legislation is current to the date indicated at the beginning of each checklist.

Considerations Before Offering a Novel or Alternative Type of Service Checklist

This checklist is intended to assist registrants who are considering providing a novel or alternative form of service, be that a new type of assessment service or an alternative form of therapy. It is expected that a registrant considering offering any alternative type of assessment or treatment service will do so only after a careful determination that the service is a psychology service, that it falls within their scope of practice, that it is supported by relevant empirical research, and that it will not pose potential harm to the public. More detailed considerations reflecting these issues are included below. Relevant *Code of Conduct* standards are indicated in brackets following the checklist items.

- I have determined that the service and/or opinion I am considering providing falls within the practice of psychology as defined within the Psychologists Regulation. **(1.1, Psychologists Regulation)**
- I will not provide any service or opinion that falls outside the practice of psychology as defined within the Psychologists Regulation. **(1.1, Psychologists Regulation)**
- My decision to offer the alternative service is informed by appropriate psychological research. It is not an experimental assessment or intervention service that should only be offered in a research context as part of evaluating the service. **(3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.15, 11.5)**
- I have the appropriate education, training, and experience to provide the service competently and ethically. **(3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.11, 3.21, 3.22, 3.25, 11.5)**
- I will not provide any service or opinion that falls outside my scope of competent practice. **(3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.7)**
- I consult regularly with colleagues, both with those who are familiar with the alternative service and with those who offer conventional services and are in a position to offer a potentially challenging or corrective perspective on the alternative service, in order to ensure that I do not overlook any emergent concerns about the alternative service. **(3.2, 3.12, 3.21)**
- I maintain awareness of research and professional developments related to the service. **(3.2, 3.3, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.15, 3.21, 3.22, 3.25, 11.5)**
- I will offer the service consistently with all requirements of the *Code of Conduct*. **(2.1, 2.3, 3.1)**
- I will offer the service only if it is as safe as, or safer than, conventional services, and I will cease to offer the service if I become aware that it poses any greater risk to clients than do conventional services. **(5.1, 5.26, 8.2)**
- I will not offer the novel service to any client for whom the service could reasonably be considered to be inappropriate or insufficient. **(3.23, 5.1, 5.26, 8.2)**

- In addition to observing the basic elements of informed consent, when seeking to obtain informed consent from each client for a novel service, I will:
 - o clearly state the novel or alternative nature of the service I am offering;
 - o provide clear information regarding any risks of the service; and
 - o advise every client of the availability of more established and conventional services where these exist, and the client's right to choose which service they would prefer to receive. **(3.22, 4.1, 4.2, 4.6, 4.8, 4.11, 5.2)**
- I will not make any statements regarding the service that are false, inaccurate, unverifiable, or could reasonably be deemed to have the potential to mislead the public. **(3.12, 3.13, 10.1, 10.7, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 11.15, 11.17)**
- I will not make any misleading statements about the results a client may expect from my service, including in any advertising and in my direct conversations with prospective clients. **(3.12, 3.13, 10.1, 10.7, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 11.15, 11.17)**
- I will attend rigorously to requirements for accuracy in my public statements, in my discussions with clients, in any client reports, and in any publications. **(3.12, 3.13, 10.1, 10.7, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 11.15, 11.17, 11.27, 11.28)**
- I will clearly state any limitations to my opinions in my public statements, in my discussions with clients, in any client reports, and in any publications, including specifically any limitations attributable to the novel or alternative nature of the service. **(3.13, 3.14, 3.18, 11.6, 11.9, 11.11, 11.28)**
- I will seek specific informed written consent from every client if my service is being observed or recorded in any way. **(4.1, 4.2, 4.11, 4.12)**
- In the event I am conducting research on a novel service, I will clearly advise each prospective client that the service is being offered in the context of research, and obtain specific written informed consent from any client to be included in that research. **(4.1, 4.2, 4.13, 4.14)**
- I will not use data obtained from my clients for any research or other publication without their express written consent. **(4.1, 4.2, 4.11, 4.13, 4.14)**
- I will not seek any benefit other than appropriate agreed upon monetary compensation from any client to whom I am offering the service. **(5.4, 5.5)**
- If I am promoting the use of the novel service to other professionals, I will:
 - o ensure that I attend rigorously to requirements for accuracy;
 - o provide limitations of my opinions in all of my statements; and
 - o ensure I do not promote the use of psychological assessment or intervention techniques by unqualified individuals. **(3.12, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.18, 10.1, 10.7, 10.14, 10.15, 10.16, 11.5, 11.13, 11.15, 11.17, 15.5, 15.8)**
- I will not coerce or induce any client to accept the alternative service, and I will respect their right to choose a conventional service in addition to or in lieu of the alternative service **(4.2, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.8, 5.26)**
- I am aware of any relevant legislation related to the service and I am in compliance with any and all applicable laws. **(3.8, 18.1)**