



Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

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Membership Advisory

Relaying Medical Information on Behalf of Medical Practitioners

At times Psychologists may be asked by their employers to perform tasks which may be considered to be outside of the scope of practice and licensed authority afforded to the profession. An example of this would be relaying information to clients regarding medication issues on behalf of medical practitioners. Members are reminded that the legislation and bylaws governing the practice of Psychology requires that members practice in accordance with the ethical and practice standards adopted by the Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (SCP). Principles 2 and 3 of the Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists 3rd Edition (Code) direct members to practice only within their scope of competence, and to be accurate and honest in presenting their qualifications and limitations. Section 2 of the SCP Practice Guidelines (PPG) speaks to a member's responsibility to practice in accordance with the Code and the PPG, and the obligation of the member to comply with these directives. Section 3 of the PPG speaks to competence and practicing only within the scope of that competence and the fact that regardless of the reason why one acts, they are accountable for the actions they undertake in their role as a Psychologist. While on the surface conveying to a client a directive from a physician regarding medication, whether provided verbally or in writing may appear to be a relatively harmless action, it has the potential to present a liability to the client, the individual Psychologist, and the employer. Ultimately, a Psychologist is not a medical practitioner, and does not have prescriptive authority. To provide clients with direction regarding medication usage may be viewed as going outside of one's competence and legal scope of practice, and may result in harm to the client, and complaint to the regulatory body. Members are advised to be clear with their employers with regard to their scope of competence and the scope of practice for the profession, and to restrict their activities to those which they have the legislated authority to perform.