



Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

Suite 455, 5991 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 1Y6
www.nsbep.org

Telephone: (902) 423-2238
Fax: (902) 423-0058

Cross-jurisdictional telepsychology services

The NSBEP maintains jurisdiction and oversight over all psychologists and candidates registered with the Board, regardless of where (i.e., physical location) or how (i.e., in-person or via telepsychology) they practise as a psychologist.

In the context of **telepsychology**, NSBEP interprets “practice” as occurring in the jurisdiction where the psychologist is registered. Accordingly, psychologists registered and licenced to practice by a regulatory authority elsewhere in Canada may deliver **telepsychology** services to clients in Nova Scotia without having to obtain registration with NSBEP. For clarity, when providing **in-person** psychology services in Nova Scotia, psychologists registered and licenced in other jurisdictions must first obtain registration with NSBEP.

Psychologists providing telepsychology services to Nova Scotia clients must comply with the registration and licencing requirements and the professional standards and ethical principles of the jurisdiction in which they are registered and licensed.

Practising telepsychology, particularly cross-jurisdictionally, may affect a psychologist’s professional liability insurance. Accordingly, a psychologist intending to provide cross-jurisdictional telepsychology services must ensure their insurance covers such services.

If a NSBEP registrant intends to provide telepsychology services to a client in another jurisdiction, the registrant should first contact the regulatory authority of the jurisdiction to determine what applicable requirements may be in place.

If NSBEP receives a complaint regarding telepsychology services provided to a client in another jurisdiction by a psychologist registered in Nova Scotia and another jurisdiction, NSBEP may forward the complaint to the regulatory authority in the other jurisdiction. This option is included to avoid complications of having two regulatory bodies investigate a matter and lead to potentially differing outcomes, and to allow cooperation with those boards in regard in matters of this kind.

Psychologists registered outside of a Canadian province or territory are expected to refer to the Board’s Courtesy Registration Process, which currently has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information for those registered outside of a Canadian jurisdiction is

available from the URL below:

<https://www.nsbep.org/for-psychologists-from-other-jurisdictions/>

The NSBEP has developed the below FAQ in relation to Cross-jurisdictional telepsychology services. We will be expanding the FAQ as required.

Does this mean that psychologists registered with NSBEP no longer need to obtain permission from the province/jurisdiction in which the client is located in order to provide telehealth services?

No. If a NSBEP registrant intends to provide telepsychology services to a client in another jurisdiction, the registrant should still first contact the regulatory authority of the jurisdiction to determine what applicable requirements may be in place.

What happens if NSBEP receives a complaint from another jurisdiction about a psychologist registered with NSBEP providing unauthorized service in their jurisdiction?

The Board expects that registrants will investigate and respect the requirements of other jurisdictions when providing telepsychology or in-person services in other jurisdictions. In the event that such a complaint (e.g., regarding unprofessional conduct, which might include not following requirements in the jurisdiction) were received, the NSBEP would be obliged to investigate the matter like any other complaint. It should be noted that another jurisdiction would likely have clauses in their legislation allowing them to take action against an individual who they deem to be engaging (or to have engaged) in unauthorized practice within their jurisdiction.

If I am a psychologist registered in the US can I use the same process?

No. Psychologists registered in a jurisdiction outside of a Canadian province or territory are expected to utilize to the Board's Courtesy Registration Process. More information for those registered outside of a Canadian jurisdiction is available from the URL below:

<https://www.nsbep.org/for-psychologists-from-other-jurisdictions/>

Are there other resources that psychologists should refer to?

We recommend that psychologists refer to the Telepsychology Standards. You can [click here](#) to access the Standards.

http://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Model_Standards_Telepsychology.pdf

Please also refer to the section of the Board's website pertaining to telepsychology:

<https://www.nsbep.org/information-for-registrants/telepsychology/>