



NSBEP Email Update July 2022

Welcome to the most recent update from NSBEP.

In this format of communication with registrants, the Board strives to provide updates on subjects of interest to registrants of the Board.

In this update:

- Oral Examinations
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Nova Scotia Government Change to Gender Affirming Surgery Application
- NSBEP Website

ORAL EXAMINATIONS

Further to a prior Email Update in March 2022, the Board has been developing a pool of ethical dilemmas for use in oral exams. The process was amended and became effective in July 2022. With the change, candidates are now provided with an ethical dilemma/scenario by the Committee during the exam.

For more information, the documentation has been updated online and is available from the following URL:

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Oral_Examination_Information_for_Candidates.pdf

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Please see the attached letter on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Health and Wellness. The DHW is now offering to extend the supply of appropriate PPE to private practitioners, at no cost, until December 31, 2022. An email address is provided in the letter should you have any questions.

Click on the below link for more information:

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Psychologists_extension_to_PPE_Supplies.pdf

NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT CHANGE TO GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Health and Wellness has requested that the following information be distributed to registrants.

Please note that this governmental change in requirements does not alter the need for a regulated professional to follow their own professional standards for practicing within their areas of competence. As is the case with any aspect of practice, psychologists must have

the necessary training, skills and experience to carry out any particular activities.

Effective July 20, gender affirming surgery applications no longer require a letter of support from a Nova Scotia specialist and a letter from a specialist confirming post-operative care if the surgery was happening in Nova Scotia. A letter from a physician or nurse practitioner confirming post-operative care is still required if the surgery is happening outside Nova Scotia.

A psychosocial assessment letter is still required. Physicians, nurse practitioners and specialists who have specific skills in gender-affirming care can now complete the assessment, provide the letter and sign the application.

Free online courses in gender-affirming care are available for healthcare professionals via prideHealth at <https://www.nshealth.ca/content/pridehealth>.

More information, including the list of publicly funded gender-affirming surgeries in Nova Scotia, is available at: <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/gender-affirming-surgery/>

Here is a link to the Press Release from Government:

https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/NR_Changes_to_GAS_Application_FINAL.pdf

NSBEP WEBSITE

The Board's website has been completely updated to better align with best practices for websites and to improve accessibility for all stakeholders.

<https://nsbep.org>

Registrants are always encouraged to make use of the website to keep track of any developments and to perform various tasks.

For instance, the website provides access to various legislation, standards and additional guidelines NSBEP has established to direct practice along with news releases. We have different versions of "Frequently Asked Questions" to serve the various requirements of visitors to our site. We regularly add new content to these and other sections, when common questions arise.

We would like to provide a reminder that the website includes an archive of past Email Updates from NSBEP to Registrants. To access such information, please see the Information for Registrants Section of the website.

The NSBEP Directory of Psychologists is available from the website. Such information can be helpful for the public and other professionals. Please ensure that your information is accurate.

The Board site offers a Registrant Portal, which allows registrants to perform a variety of self-serve functions. In addition to renewing your registration, you can update your contact information on file with NSBEP or update your Psychological Practice Profile as required.

You can also access a Confirmation of Registration document that you can save to your computer and/or print off if you wish to share it with others to verify your registration, e.g., an employer, insurance companies, agencies, etc. This document confirms that a psychologist's registration has been renewed and states the current year of registration.

You can return to this portal at any time in future, if you wish to obtain another

Confirmation of Registration, update your contact information or psychological practice profile, or even pay a miscellaneous fee (e.g., paying an oral exam fee, reinstatement fee, etc.).

To get started with any of the self-serve functions, visit nsbep.org and click on "Registrant Login" in the upper right hand screen.

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve the website, you can easily submit your feedback using the online form at the bottom of the NSBEP website.

Sincerely,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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