

NSBEP Email Update

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:

- Continuing Competence Updates
- Deadlines for Registration Matters and Investigations
- Board Supervision Update
- Request from APNS

CONTINUING COMPETENCY UPDATES

1) The Board would like to inform registrants that it has discontinued the practice of doing random audits of Continuing Competency in its current form. Registrants are still required to complete their Continuing Competency documents on a yearly basis as the Board can request copies of this documentation in other circumstances.

2) The Board considers Continuing Competence activities to be a very important component of protecting the public by ensuring that psychologists keep up to date with current psychological practices. The Board appreciates that registrant access to some continuing competence activities, particularly in-person workshops and professional conventions may be limited during at least the early part of 2022 because of circumstances related to COVID-19. In light of this, for the 2022 calendar year, the Board will continue its practice from the past two years of increasing the number of credits that can be earned from 10 credits to 15 credits in each of two categories:

11. Workshops / Webinars / Online Learning - 1 hour = 1 credit. For 2022, the maximum number of credits that can be earned in this category has been increased to 15 from 10.

12. Self-directed learning (reading, videos) 1 hour = 1 credit. For 2022, the maximum number of credits that can be earned in this category has been increased to 15 from 10.

DEADLINE POLICIES

Principle 1 of NSBEP's Standard of Practice states that: A registrant shall be open and responsive to the regulation and discipline of the Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology.

The use of deadlines helps the Board and its Committees ensure that matters proceed in a timely manner and do not get procedurally "stuck" if a response has not been received.

In some instances, deadlines are necessary to help address the Board's role in protecting the public.

The Board has developed a policy for deadlines relating to registration matters . A description of the policy can be found here:
https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Deadlines_Registration_Policy_Statement.pdf

The Board has also developed a policy specific to deadlines imposed by committees that investigate complaints.

This policy notes that a registrant's failure to respond as required by the specified deadline may result in the Investigation Committee imposing or initiating further disciplinary measures, including an interim suspension of the registrant's registration to practise psychology and/or referral to the Hearing Committee. The policy also clarifies how requests for deadline extensions are to be made. The full policy can be seen here:
https://www.nsbep.org/downloads/Deadlines_Responses_Investigation_Committees.pdf

BOARD SUPERVISION UPDATE

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Board policy allowed for two of the monthly supervision meetings for psychologists on the Candidate Register to be done virtually (additional sessions required Board approval). During the pandemic, the Board has permitted all supervision session to be held virtually. Now that public health restrictions are planned to be removed on March 21, 2022, the Board would like to announce a change in its policy. The new policy is that tele-supervision is permitted for conducting NSBEP supervision, subject to a minimum of 1 in-person meeting every 6 months. Typically, the first supervision session between the supervisor and candidate should held be in person. Of course, a supervisor and candidate can agree to hold all their meeting in person should they choose to do so.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind supervisors:

- that when they fulfill the requirement to contact the candidate's supervisor at least once a year, that they briefly document in their supervision report the outcome of the contact
- that direct observation does not need to be in-person, it can be review of an audio or video recording, or observing a virtual session with a client – direct observation should involve observing assessment, intervention, or other work with a client
- to use the most current version of the supervision report forms

The Supervision Handbook, General Supervision Guidelines for Supervision Reports, Sample Goals of Supervision, and the Supervision Forms can be found here:
<https://www.nsbep.org/information-for-registrants/for-candidate-registrants/supervision-processforms/>

REQUEST FROM APNS

APNS requested that NSBEP send this out so that it would reach all psychologists.

APNS strongly suggests that you read this Background document before responding to the the Survey.
https://mcusercontent.com/8d4f6afe6a93e93da64f21cbe/files/7a0dc952-e023-3b5b-d2be-b4b2fd7c0dc1/Government_Advocacy_Backgrounder_030122.01.pdf

The NS government plans to make mental health services more assessable to Nova Scotians. This could lead to a shift in how mental health services are provided, funded and accessed in Nova Scotia. APNS sees this as a major opportunity for the profession, and the most significant advocacy opportunity since APNS advocated for registration of psychologists in 1980. We are at a watershed moment for psychological practice, and mental health advocacy not just in Nova Scotia but in Canada; a watershed that could signal funding of psychological services under MSI for the first time. At our recent meeting with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions we discussed how these plans would be implemented.

Link to Survey:

<https://form.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=2c0316ab-248f-4384-b6e4-2fd3b934c076>

If you have questions, or problems accessing this survey, please contact apns@apns.ca

Sincerely,

Nova Scotia Board of Examiners in Psychology

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