

Telesupervision

(Commission on Accreditation, November 2009)

The CoA recognizes that accredited programs may utilize telesupervision in their program curriculum. At the same time, the CoA recognizes there are unique benefits to in-person supervision. Benefits to in-person supervision include, but are not limited to, opportunities for professional socialization and assessment of trainee competence, which are essential aspects of professional development, ensuring quality, and protecting the public. Therefore, the CoA recognizes that there must be guidelines and limits on the use of telesupervision in accredited programs.

The following applies only to the minimum number of required hours of supervision. At the doctoral level, these are the minimal supervision requirements for each practicum site, as defined by the doctoral program. Supervision beyond the minimum number of required hours may utilize methods or modalities that are deemed appropriate by the accredited program. Nothing in this Implementing Regulation contravenes other requirements in the G&P. It only clarifies the utilization of telesupervision at the doctoral practicum, internship and postdoctoral levels.

Definitions:

Telesupervision is clinical supervision of psychological services through a synchronous audio and video format where the supervisor is not in the same physical facility as the trainee.

In-person supervision is clinical supervision of psychological services where the supervisor is physically in the same room as the trainee.

Programs utilizing any amount of telesupervision need to have a *formal policy* addressing their utilization of this supervision modality, including but not limited to:

- An explicit rationale for using telesupervision;
- How it is consistent with their overall model and philosophy of training;
- How and when telesupervision is utilized in clinical training;
- How it is determined which trainees can participate in telesupervision;
- How an off-site supervisor maintains full professional and responsibility for clinical cases;
- How non-scheduled consultation and crisis coverage are managed;
- How privacy and confidentiality of the client and trainees are assured; and
- The technology and quality requirements and any education in the use of this technology that is required by either trainee or supervisor.

Guidelines and Limits:

- Doctoral programs: Telesupervision may not account for more than 50% of the total supervision at a given practicum site, and may not be utilized at all until a student has completed his/her first practicum with substantial intervention experience within the doctoral program.
- Internship programs: Telesupervision may not account for more than one hour (50%) of the minimum required (as defined in the G&P) two weekly hours of individual

supervision, and two hours (50%) of the minimum required (as defined in the G&P) four total weekly hours of supervision.

- Postdoctoral programs: Telesupervision may not account for more than one hour (50%) of the minimum required (as defined in the G&P) two weekly hours of face-to-face supervision.

Programs that utilize telesupervision are expected to address generally accepted best practices. Furthermore, as with all accredited programs, programs that utilize telesupervision must demonstrate how they meet all domains of the *Guidelines and Principles*.