

Glossary

Accountable

“Accountable” means being responsible and answerable for one’s professional conduct, including off-duty conduct that has a sufficient connection to the profession.

Assignment

“Assignment,” in relation to the provision of health services, means the designation of another person to perform a healthcare-related activity that is not a “restricted activity” as defined by the HPOA or the CHCPBC Bylaws.

Concurrent care

“Concurrent care” refers to the circumstance in which two or more healthcare professionals from the same or different regulated health professions are actively involved in providing health services to a patient at the same time or over the same period, either independently or collaboratively.

Conflict of interest

“Conflict of interest” refers to the circumstance in which a healthcare professional’s duty to act in the interests of their patient, an individual, or the public may be—or may be perceived to be—affected or influenced by competing interests. Conflicts of interest can be real, potential, or perceived and may arise in a variety of circumstances, including financial, non-financial, direct, and indirect transactions with patients and others.

Consent

“Consent” means a voluntary, informed, and capable person’s agreement to receive a specific health service. Consent is valid only when:

- The person is capable of making the decision;
- The person receives the information that a reasonable person would require about the nature, purpose, benefits, risks, and alternatives to the proposed service;
- The person is given an opportunity to ask questions and receive answers;
- The decision is voluntary, not obtained through coercion, fraud, or misrepresentation; and
- The consent relates to the specific health service proposed.

Consent may be expressed orally or in writing, or inferred from the person’s conduct, and may be withdrawn at any time.



Credible research

“Credible research” means research that is:

- Peer-reviewed or otherwise validated through recognized scholarly or professional processes.
- Produced by reputable sources, such as academic institutions, government bodies, or professional organizations.
- Methodologically sound in terms of the research design, data collection, and analysis meeting accepted standards.
- Transparent and reliable, with findings that can be verified, replicated, or supported by a body of evidence.
- Relevant to the context of practice, ensuring applicability to the populations, settings, and issues a licensee encounters.

Delegate

“Delegate” means to authorize the performance of a restricted activity, where the authorization is given by a licensee in the course of practising a designated health profession to a person who is not authorized to practise the designated health profession in compliance with the requirements of s. 74 of the HPOA and the CHCPBC Bylaws.

Evidence

“Evidence” means reliable and relevant information used to inform professional judgment or decision making. This may include research findings, clinical or professional experience, practice data, expert consensus, or Indigenous or community knowledge systems recognized within their cultural context.

Evidence-based

“Evidence-based” means supported by credible research and/or Indigenous ways of knowing—such as oral histories, teachings, or storytelling—which are recognized and validated within their cultural context.

Evidence-informed

“Evidence-informed” means recognizing that evidence is one of several key inputs to professional judgment and decision making, balanced with contextual factors (such as ethics, values, or the needs of the patient or individual being assessed) to guide the final decision.



Evidence-led

“Evidence-led” means dominated by evidence, unless there are strong contextual or ethical reasons to the contrary.

Healthcare team

“Healthcare team” means a group of healthcare providers from the same and/or different disciplines who work collaboratively to provide health services to a patient. Team members may include regulated healthcare professionals, unregulated care providers, support staff, and others involved in the planning, delivery, coordination, or evaluation of health services, including the patient, their family, or community representatives.

Health service

“Health service” means any service or activity provided by a licensee in relation to healthcare, including collecting information; assessing, diagnosing, preventing, monitoring, treating, or managing a person’s health or health-related condition; or providing health-related information to an individual or the public, whether or not treatment is provided.

Indigenous-specific racism

“Indigenous-specific racism” means the unique nature of stereotyping, bias, and prejudice about Indigenous peoples in Canada that is rooted in the history of settler colonialism. It is the ongoing race-based discrimination, negative stereotyping, and injustice experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada that perpetuates power imbalances, systemic discrimination, and inequitable outcomes stemming from the colonial policies and practices.⁸

Individual being assessed

“Individual being assessed” means an individual who is the subject of an evaluation, examination, or report prepared by a licensee for a third party (such as an employer, insurer, court, or agency).

Limited restricted activity

“Limited restricted activity” means a restricted activity that a licensee may perform subject to specific conditions, limitations, or scopes set out for the licensee’s profession in the Regulation.

⁸ Turpel-Lafond, M.E. (2021). In plain sight: addressing Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in B.C. health care. Queen’s Printer: Victoria, BC. pg. 5.



Marketing, advertising, and/or promotion

“Marketing, advertising, and/or promotion” means any communication made orally, in print, through electronic media, via the internet, or in any other medium, by or on behalf of a licensee to the public, that is designed in whole or in part to promote the licensee's professional health services and/or products or the practice setting in which they practise or with which they are associated.

Patient

“Patient” means a person to whom health services are provided. Throughout the Ethics and Practice Standards, “patient” includes substitute decision-makers, parents, and guardians where applicable.

Person-led care

“Person-led care” means an approach to healthcare that prioritizes the needs, values, preferences, knowledge, life experience, and autonomy of patients receiving care to ensure a respectful and collaborative professional relationship. Person-led care: (a) facilitates informed decision making; (b) recognizes the patient as an active partner in decisions concerning their care; and (c) takes into account the patient’s social, cultural, and emotional context to ensure care is responsive, equitable, and tailored to their needs.

Personal information

“Personal information” means recorded information about an identifiable individual other than business contact information.

Power imbalance

“Power imbalance” refers to the dynamic that exists by virtue of the authority and influence that a healthcare professional holds in relation to a patient or individual being assessed due to their role and subject matter knowledge, which places the patient or individual being assessed in a vulnerable position.

Professional boundaries

“Professional boundaries” means the legal and ethical limits that define and protect the professional relationship between a healthcare professional and a patient or individual being assessed. These boundaries ensure the professional relationship remains safe, therapeutic, and focused on the needs or the patient or the interests of the individual being assessed, with the necessary level of psychological and social distance to preserve the healthcare provider’s objectivity and prevent exploitation of the power imbalance, rather than devolving into a personal relationship.



Professional relationship

“Professional relationship” means the relationship that arises when a licensee, acting in their professional or practice-related capacity, provides or undertakes to provide services, advice, assessment, care, treatment, education, supervision, consultation, or other professional activities to or for an individual, a client, a patient, a family, a group, an organization, or the public.

Psychological safety

“Psychological safety” refers to circumstances in which patients and other individuals feel safe to express their ideas and authentic selves, ask questions, raise concerns, report mistakes, and acknowledge limitations without fear of adverse consequences such as criticism, humiliation, punishment, or retaliation. Psychological safety includes cultural and identity safety and supports open communication, mutual respect, continuous learning, and shared accountability. It requires healthcare professionals to actively address power imbalances, bias, and systemic barriers so that all voices—especially those from Indigenous communities and other equity-denied groups—are heard, respected, and valued.

Psychotherapeutic care

“Psychotherapeutic care” means structured care intended to support mental, emotional, or behavioural health, including counselling, psychotherapy, and other talk-based interventions that involve a sustained, trust-based relationship focused on exploring and addressing psychological concerns.

Recognized Education Program

“Recognized Education Program” means a program recognized in Schedule 5 of the CHCPBC Bylaws.

Record

“Record” includes patient information, books, documents, drawings, photographs, letters, vouchers, papers, and any other thing on which information is recorded or stored by graphic, electronic, mechanical, or other means, but does not include a computer program or any other mechanism that produces records.

Restricted activity

“Restricted activity” means an activity that is performed in the course of providing a health service and is prescribed by the Minister as a restricted activity.



Social media

“Social media” means online platforms and digital tools that enable individuals and/or organizations to create, share, and engage with content and to interact with others in public or semi-public virtual environments.

Substitute decision-maker

“Substitute decision-maker” means a person who is legally authorized to make healthcare decisions on behalf of an adult who is incapable of giving or refusing consent, in accordance with British Columbia law. A substitute decision-maker may include, as applicable:

- A representative appointed under a representation agreement pursuant to the *Representation Agreement Act*.
- A committee of the person appointed by the court under the *Patients Property Act*.
- A temporary substitute decision-maker selected in accordance with the *Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act*.

Supervise

“Supervise” means to oversee the practice of another individual to ensure that health services are delivered safely, ethically, and in accordance with professional standards while retaining responsibility for the actions of the individual being supervised and the delivery of those health services. The supervision may occur in the context of a formal delegation or assignment.

Supervisee

“Supervisee” means an individual working under the supervision of a licensed and authorized healthcare professional. This may include support personnel, students, interns, or individuals required to engage in supervised practice.

Testimonial

“Testimonial” means a statement, endorsement, or review (whether verbal, written, or recorded) by a patient or other individual that addresses their experience with a healthcare professional and/or their services or products.

Third party

“Third party” means an individual or organization other than the patient or the licensee who is involved in or affected by the provision of health or related services. Third parties may include employers, insurers, educators, regulators, service providers, or other persons or entities.