



Evidence-Informed Practice and Outcome Evaluation

The public can expect licensed healthcare professionals to base their health service decisions, recommendations, and actions on the best available evidence, informed by professional standards, clinical experience, and the individual needs, preferences, and values of their patients. Licensed healthcare professionals are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the health services they provide and making changes to those services when needed to improve outcomes and ensure safe and effective care.

This Practice Standard applies to all aspects of professional decision making, including assessment, treatment planning, health service delivery, and evaluation of clinical outcomes.

A licensee must:

1. *Use the best available evidence in their practice, which means to:*

- 1.1. Incorporate relevant and current evidence in their area of practice.
- 1.2. Integrate evidence with professional experience and the patient's unique needs, preferences, values, and goals in planning and delivering care and services.
- 1.3. Update their practice when evidence evolves, when new evidence becomes available, when professional guidelines are updated, and when concerns about the safety or effectiveness of specific health services are identified.

2. *Demonstrate proficiency in assessment and/or diagnosis, which means to:*

- 2.1. Select and employ assessment tools and procedures that are valid, reliable, and appropriate to the condition, needs, and cultural context of the patient or individual being assessed, drawing on current evidence, professional judgment, and clinical guidelines.
- 2.2. Use standardized measures where available and appropriate to assess and/or monitor the health condition and progress of the patient or individual being assessed.
- 2.3. Adapt tools and procedures in consultation with the patient or individual being assessed where standardized assessment tools and procedures do not align with their cultural framework, risk causing harm or re-traumatization, use language or concepts that are inaccessible, or measure constructs that are not meaningful to their lived experience.
- 2.4. Interpret assessment findings using critical thinking and evidence-informed reasoning to formulate conclusions about the condition of the patient or individual being assessed, including a diagnosis, where appropriate.
- 2.5. Ensure that clinical diagnoses are based on reliable data, clinical expertise, and the presentation of the patient or individual being assessed.



3. *Collect and use data to inform treatment which means to:*

- 3.1. Collect relevant health history and other relevant information from the patient or individual being assessed to inform decisions regarding assessments, diagnoses, treatment plans, and other interventions.
- 3.2. Identify when additional information or data is required, including information from other healthcare providers or collateral information from family members and/or other relevant parties, and request that information with the patient's consent or in compliance with privacy and confidentiality requirements.
- 3.3. Recognize and critically assess the risks of misinformation and inaccuracies in the information and data collected.
- 3.4. Follow up on tests, diagnostics, and referrals initiated by the licensee within a reasonable timeframe.

4. *Provide services that are supported by evidence, which means to:*

- 4.1. Refrain from offering or providing health products or health services that will not meet the identified needs of the patient based on available evidence.
- 4.2. Discontinue interventions that are no longer necessary or effective, or appear to be inappropriate or harmful, based on monitoring of the patient's progress, review of their feedback, and evaluation of outcomes.

5. *Evaluate outcomes, which means to:*

- 5.1. Use appropriate methods to monitor the outcomes of health service decisions and interventions, and document in the patient record.

6. *Adapt treatment or care plans based on findings, which means to:*

- 6.1. In consultation with the patient, adapt the patient's treatment or care plan when there is sufficient information to form the clinical opinion that the plan is not achieving the desired results.

7. *Unless prohibited or restricted by law or the terms under which a service was rendered, share findings with the patient, which means to:*

- 7.1. Communicate assessment results, diagnoses, and findings regarding treatment directly to the patient (or their substitute decision-maker) in a timely, respectful, and accessible manner.