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## **Emergency Policy on Supervision and Teletherapy**

At its meeting on October 13, 2020, the Board of Registration of Psychologists (“Board”) voted to issue the following amended policy:

Because of the current state of emergency in Massachusetts, for psychological services rendered from March 10, 2020 through ten (10) days following the end of the state of emergency, the Board considers on-premises supervision for the purposes of 251 Code Mass. Regs. § 3.05(2)(f) to mean that the supervisor is ready and available to consult with, or otherwise assist, the trainee at the time psychological services are rendered, and that the supervisor has access to the clinic’s records, including the patient’s healthcare records and any other relevant records or information. This means that, during the state of emergency and for ten (10) days thereafter, teletherapy offered to a patient by a trainee who is supervised by a supervisor while the patient, trainee, and supervisor are in different locations will count as supervised experience hours assuming all other requirements are met. Supervisors and trainees should ensure that they comply with any and all statutes and regulations in other jurisdictions where psychological services are rendered and/or where patients are located.

Further, because of the current state of emergency, for supervision rendered from March 10, 2020 through ten (10) days following the end of the state of emergency, the Board considers “face to face contacts” for the purposes of 251 Code Mass. Regs. § 3.05(2)(c) to mean that the trainee and supervisor, or a group of no more than three trainees and a supervisor, have contact through an acceptable, secure, HIPAA compliant videoconferencing platform. This means that, during the state of emergency and for ten (10) days thereafter, such contacts will count as supervision assuming all other requirements are met.

In all cases, supervisors and trainees shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations related to privileges, confidentiality, and HIPAA.

This policy amends the initial Emergency Policy the Board voted to issue on April 3, 2020.

