

Knowledge of, and ability to operate within, professional and ethical guidelines

Knowledge

An ability to maintain awareness of national and local codes of practice which apply to all staff involved in the delivery of healthcare, as well as any codes of practice which apply to the therapist as a member of a specific profession
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An ability to take responsibility for maintaining awareness of legislation relevant to areas of professional practice in which the therapist is engaged (specifically including the Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, Human Rights Act, Data Protection Act)
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Application of professional and ethical guidelines

An ability to draw on knowledge of relevant codes of professional and ethical conduct and practice in order to apply the general principles embodied in these codes to each piece of work being undertaken, in the areas of:
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obtaining informed consent for interventions from clients

maintaining confidentiality, and knowing the conditions under which confidentiality can be breached

safeguarding the client's interests when co-working with other professionals as part of a team, including good practice regarding inter-worker/ inter-professional communication
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competence to practice, and maintaining competent practice through appropriate training/professional development
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recognition of the limits of competence and taking action to enhance practice through appropriate training/professional development

protecting clients from actual or potential harm from professional malpractice by colleagues by instituting action in accordance with national and professional guidance
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maintaining appropriate standards of personal conduct for self:

a capacity to recognise any potential problems in relation to power and "dual relationships" with clients, and to desist absolutely from any abuses in these areas
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recognising when personal impairment could influence fitness to practice, and taking appropriate action (e.g. seeking personal and professional support and/or desisting from practice)

Ability to work with difference (cultural competence)

an ability to maintain an awareness of the potential significance for practice of social and cultural difference, across a range of domains, but including:

ethnicity

culture

class

religion

gender

age

disability

sexual orientation

For all clients with whom the therapist works, an ability to draw on knowledge of the relevance and potential impact of social and cultural difference on the effectiveness and acceptability of an intervention
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Where social and cultural difference impacts on the accessibility of intervention, an ability to make appropriate adjustments to the therapy, with the aim of maximising its potential benefit to the client
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