



FAQ

Professional Standard: Scope of Practice

Introduction

The [Professional Standard: Scope of Practice](#) sets out the *minimum* expectations for professionalism and ethical conduct that licensees must meet when performing activities for which they are educated and authorized to carry out per applicable regulations, including the [Complementary Health Professionals Regulation](#) and the [Health Professions and Occupations Act](#).

Below are frequently asked questions by licensees.

Q: Does the College approve courses for licensees to learn new treatment techniques that extend beyond their professions' entry-level competencies?

No. The College does not approve courses for licensees to learn new treatment techniques.

The Professional Standard: Scope of Practice, Principle 1.3 states licensees must:

1.3 Only practice and provide care to patients when they have appropriate knowledge, skills, and competence.

Principle 2.3 of the Professional Standard states that licensees must:

2.3 Undertake additional training before integrating techniques or approaches that extend beyond entry-level practice to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and competence required to safely integrate into practice.

This means that licensees are responsible for ensuring they have obtained appropriate additional training and developed sufficient competence before integrating techniques or approaches that extend beyond entry-level practice.



Q: What does it mean to have an Evidence-Based Practice approach?

The Professional Standard: Scope of Practice defines Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) as:

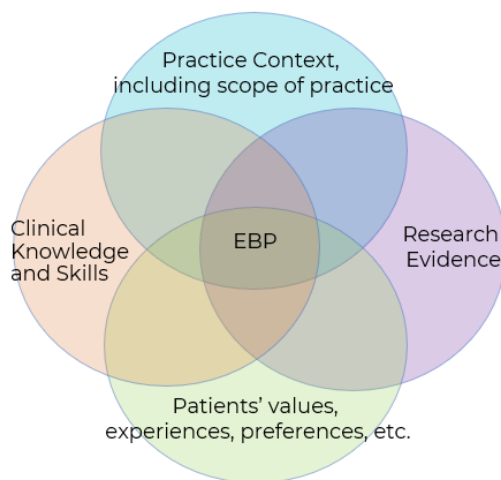
evidence-based practice: *an approach to professional practice that involves the integration of research evidence specific to the condition being treated or approach to treatment; practice context including a licensee's scope of practice; patient's values and circumstances; and clinical expertise.*

The Professional Standard: Scope of Practice, Principle 1.4 states licensees must:

1.4. *Incorporate an evidence-based practice approach to support clinical decision making when determining an appropriate treatment plan for a patient.*

Applying an EBP approach supports clinical decision making by integrating **four key sources** of information to all aspects of patient care.

- **Research evidence** relevant to the condition or treatment approach.
- **Practice context**, including the licensee's scope of practice and regulatory requirements under the HPOA.
- **Patient perspective**, such as their values, preferences, experiences, expectations, and concerns.
- **Professional knowledge and experience**, including skills and clinical insights gained through practice and outcome evaluation.





Q: What does it mean for a licensee to clearly separate the services they provide in another role from the professional services they provide as a licensee?

Professional Standard: Scope of Practice, Principle 1.7 states licensees must:

1.7 Ensure there is clear separation between services should a licensee be trained to provide an unregulated service that falls outside their scope of practice including:

1.7.1 Ensuring that the service that falls outside scope of practice is not linked to or associated with the licensee's practice or professional status.

1.7.2 Not using reserved titles to promote services that fall outside their scope of practice.

1.7.3 Not discuss services that fall outside scope of practice when providing care as a licensee, and vice versa.

1.7.4 Maintaining separate health care and financial records.

Simply put, a patient seeking a licensee's services should not encounter any mention of non-licensee offerings. Someone seeking non-licensee services should not see any reference or implied connection to licensee services.

In practice, this means keeping a clear separation between the two so patients are not confused about what is regulated care versus what is not. This helps ensure patients can make *informed decisions* and understand when they are receiving services under the *protections and standards of a regulated health profession*.

Q: What are the professional requirements when providing services as a dual licensee?

A dual licensee, registered with either the College or another regulated health profession in BC, must clearly distinguish the services provided for each professional designation, and only deliver services that fall within the authorized Scope of Practice within which the licensee is acting.

Professional Standard: Scope of Practice, Principle 1.6 states licensees must:

1.6 When dually licensed, ensure there is clear separation between health professions, including:



1.6.1 Clearly communicating to the patient the health profession under which they are providing care;

1.6.2 Practicing within the scope of practice of only one health profession at a time; and,

1.6.3 Maintaining separate health care and financial records for each professional practice.

This means that a licensee may only practise within the Scope of Practice of one profession at a time. For example, a dually licensed practitioner in naturopathic medicine and in traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture who is providing care under their naturopathic medicine license, may only practise within the naturopathic medicine Scope of Practice authorized under all applicable regulations. Similarly, a dually licensed massage therapy and chiropractic licensee who is providing massage therapy services may only practise within the massage therapy Scope of Practice that is authorized under applicable regulations while acting as a massage therapy licensee.

Licensees must consistently demonstrate this separation across all aspects of patient care, including but not limited to booking, billing and the creation and maintenance of patient health care records.