



IMCS Supervision Guidelines

The contractual relationship between the IMCS supervisor and the IMCS treating psychologist is that of organizational supervision, rather than clinical, educational supervision. The IMCS treating psychologist has autonomy and authority over all assessment and treatment clinical and ethical decisions regarding the patient.

The role of the IMCS supervisor is to develop and maintain a working alliance for gatekeeping organizational needs for the treating psychologist and patient; facilitating self-evaluation; and mutual problem solving.

The IMCS ***COPE with Pain Manual*** has outlined evidenced based guidelines for evaluation and treatment that focuses on the biopsychosocial factors related to the patient's physical health status such as patient adherence to medical treatment, symptom management and expression, health-promoting behaviors, health-related risk-taking behaviors, and overall adjustment to mental distress. The treating psychologist will use clinical skills within their area of competence to assess and treat the patient according to these evidenced-based guidelines. As with any Guidelines, the treating psychologists' clinical judgment, patient ethical considerations and treatment efficacy over-ride guidelines.

Supervision will be based on Ethical Practices in Psychology, which vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but in general reflect the overriding principles of:

- Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
- Fidelity and Responsibility
- Integrity
- Justice
- Respect for People's Rights and Dignity

Michael Coupland is an Alberta, Canada Registered Psychologist, with education to a Master's Level of Counseling Psychology, subsequent supervised clinical experience to fulfill practice requirements to meet unrestricted registration as a psychologist and 33 years of clinical experience and ongoing education and peer-reviewed publishing and teaching specifically in the area of work injury and disability. He does not practice psychology outside that jurisdiction. Michael is covered for Consulting Psychological services in the United States and Canada for "*decisions which require professional training and licensure as a psychologist. This would include psychological supervision, professional issues and case management issues.*" Other supervisors that IMCS may make available will similarly meet these standards and provide supervision under these guidelines.