Supplement to International Declaration on Core Competences in Professional Psychology 2026

Introduction/Preamble

The International Declaration on Core Competences in Professional Psychology (the IPCP Declaration) has established a robust foundation for defining essential competences in the field. However, the rapid evolution of psychological practice necessitates a periodic reassessment to ensure its continued relevance. Emerging trends - such as the increasing digitalization of services, the growing emphasis on the quality of professional practice through developing others by means such as supervision, and the ever-expanding recognition of the importance of underpinning professional practice with continuing cultural competence - highlight critical areas requiring further attention.

This Supplement introduces three additional competences that are essential for equipping psychologists to navigate the complexities of contemporary professional practice. These are: Operates effectively in digitally and technologically mediated psychological practice; Supports the development of others in the working context; and Demonstrates multicultural competence which is additional to the existing competences in "Works with diversity and demonstrates cultural competence" (WD).

By incorporating these three additional competences, together with relevant additional terms and definitions reflecting the evolving nature of terminology in the field, the IPCP Declaration reaffirms its role as a living document, one that evolves in response to the shifting landscape of professional psychology. These updates ensure that the profession remains globally relevant, ethically sound, and well-prepared to meet the challenges of an increasingly interconnected, diverse, and technologically mediated world.

The work in this Supplement to the Declaration will be incorporated into a 2026 version of the Declaration so that for completeness and ease of reference the reader can access all the material in one place. The sections of the IPCP Declaration will therefore be supplemented as follows:

- The Introduction and Preamble will be updated with the essential points in the content of the Introduction / Preamble to this Supplement.

- The Supplemental Competences will be added into the section CORE COMPETENCES IN PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY.
- The Supplemental Terms and Definitions will be added to the section TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.

Competences

1. Operates effectively in digitally and technologically mediated psychological practice

The increasing digitalization of psychological practice has made understanding digital communication, digital service delivery, and emerging technologies essential. Technologically mediated psychological services encompass a broad spectrum of applications, including internet- and mobile-based assessment and intervention, digital communication platforms, electronic record systems, algorithmic decision-support tools, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other data-driven technologies in assessment, diagnosis, report writing, and intervention planning and delivery. This competence ensures that psychologists are proficient in utilizing established and emerging digital technologies to deliver effective, secure, and ethically sound services across various settings, while maintaining appropriate professional judgment and critical awareness of the opportunities, risks and implications associated with these technologies. The competence does not provide detailed guidelines e.g. on the implications of the use of AI in the research environment.

- DT1: Demonstrates competence in the provision of psychological services (including assessment, intervention, and communication) in digital and virtual contexts.
- DT2: Adheres to relevant legal, regulatory and ethical standards (especially if working across national borders) in digital and virtual service environments, by ensuring e.g., transparent use, informed consent, confidentiality, data security including appropriate access to and use of client information, and awareness of the construction, risks and implications of digital tools including the role of algorithmic effects.
- DT3: Evaluates both outcomes and experience of use, and improves the effectiveness of the psychologist's provision of digital services, by adapting to technological advances, critically evaluating and adopting up-to-date evidence-based approaches, and reflective practice.

- DT4: Critically evaluates the validity, reliability and suitability of digital tools and adapts the mode of delivery or extent of technologically mediated psychological services to ensure that they are accessible, acceptable and technologically stage-appropriate.

2. Supports the development of others in the working context

Supporting the development of others in the working context (which may include psychologists, other professionals/co-workers, students) to provide competent services is fundamental to the cultivation and continuous professional development of competent personnel and has a critical role in implementing and maintaining high professional standards. Activities that fall under this heading may be formal or informal and can be found in different contexts and jurisdictions with labels such as supervision, mentorship, apprenticeship, training, personnel development, service/professional leadership and many other terms.

- DO1: Designs, implements, documents, reviews and adapts professional developmental processes, collaboratively tailored to needs and the requirements of the work context.
- DO2: Applies evidence-based professional development practices and theoretical frameworks from multiple perspectives, to enhance professional competence.
- DO3: Evaluates work performance against agreed clear and stage-appropriate criteria, to foster growth and ensure competence.
- DO4: Provides timely guidance and constructive formative and summative feedback on professional development.

3. Demonstrates multicultural competence

This competence supplements the competence "Works with diversity and demonstrates cultural competence" (WD) that is already in the Declaration. It is intended to set out the competences in terms of language, adaptation of interventions to the cultural context of the client, and protection of human dignity to comprise a common standard for all psychological practice.

- MC1: Responsive to the importance of languages to effectively communicate with and assess individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.

- MC2: Adapts psychological interventions sensitively and appropriately to fit cultural norms, values, and practices specific to different ethnic or cultural groups and individuals' multiple and intersectional identities.
- MC3: In settings with indigenous populations, competence in indigenous psychologies and community engagement: Understands and integrates indigenous worldviews, culturally accepted healing practices, and cultural values alongside psychological practice; respects local customs, and involves community members in the design and implementation of psychological services.
- MC4: Protects dignity and human rights of clients and relevant others, consistent with human rights principles and with awareness of the impact of historical and current imbalances of power, such as on health, wellbeing, and social relationships.

Terms and definitions

- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: A subdiscipline of computer science that aims to produce programs that simulate human intelligence, with diverse applications in psychology, including but not limited to psychological assessment, intervention, communication, research, decision support, and the modelling of cognitive, emotional and behavioral processes.
- **Confidentiality in digital contexts**: The safeguarding of client data, communications and records in digital environments, in accordance with ethical principles and applicable legal standards, including attention to data security, privacy, access control, and the specific risks associated with digital technologies including from use of third-party platform providers.
- **Culture-specific**: Describes practices, concepts, or interventions shaped by and primarily applicable within a particular cultural context, recognizing that psychological meanings, behaviors, and desired outcomes may vary and are equally valued across cultures.
- **Digital communication**: The use of online platforms and tools to facilitate professional interactions, including video conferencing, secure messaging and digital documentation, for communication between psychologists, clients, and relevant others in professional contexts.
- **Digital service delivery / Technologically mediated practice**: Psychological services including assessment, intervention, development of others, consultation, and communication, where technology mediates part or all of the professional interaction between the psychologist and the client or relevant others.
- **Human rights**: Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. They are articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (United Nations, 1948).
- **Indigenous**: Refers to peoples or communities with historical continuity to pre-colonial or pre-settler societies, who identify themselves, or are recognized by others, as having distinct cultural, social, linguistic, and knowledge systems. Indigenous status is primarily based on self-identification and collective continuity within specific historical, social, and political contexts.

- **Indigenous psychologies**: Systems of psychological knowledge and practice originating within Indigenous cultures, grounded in Indigenous worldviews, values, languages, and relational understandings of well-being. These systems may differ from dominant Western models in their assumptions, methods, and forms of intervention or healing.
- **Internet and mobile based psychological interventions**: Psychological interventions delivered through internet-based or mobile technologies, used either to augment traditional in-person interventions or as stand-alone alternatives, and typically structured around established psychological models and therapeutic principles.
- **Psychological services**: Professional activities provided by psychologists, based on psychological knowledge and judgement, to individuals, groups, communities, organizations, or systems. Such services may include assessment, intervention, consultation, supervision, and guidance, and may be delivered in person, digitally, or through hybrid formats.
- **Technology**: Tools, systems, and processes that enable, mediate, or transform professional psychological activities. This includes established digital tools as well as emergent technologies that may change how psychological services are designed, delivered, evaluated, or governed, requiring ongoing ethical and professional scrutiny.

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