

## Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners

### Substantive Policy Statement SP.01-18

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedures Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes § 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

#### Calculation of Face-to-Face Patient-Client Contact for Supervised Postdoctoral Experience

Pursuant to A.R.S. §32-2071(D)(3), applicants for licensure may request to apply supervised postdoctoral experience hours to meet the 3,000 hours of supervised professional work experience required for licensure. While some applicants submit more than 1,500 hours of experience, A.R.S. §32-2071(G) states that “not more than one-thousand five hundred hours of supervised professional experience shall be postdoctoral. . .”. To apply hours obtained through supervised postdoctoral experience, A.R.S. §32-2071(G)(5) requires:

5. Regular in-person, individual supervision is conducted on a contemporaneous basis, with a minimum of one hour of in-person, individual supervision for each twenty hours of supervised professional experience. **At least forty percent of the supervisee’s time shall be in direct contact with clients or patients.** Beginning July 1, 2016, not more than fifty percent of the in-person supervision may be completed using telepractice supervision as specified by the board by rule. The supervisor shall ensure that the telepractice supervision is conducted using secure, confidential real-time vision telecommunication technology. [*emphasis added*]

This substantive policy statement is written to clarify that the Board accepts a calculation of the number of face-to-face patient contact hours based on the number of hours of supervised postdoctoral experience the applicant is applying toward licensure. For example, if the applicant is applying 1,000 hours of postdoctoral experience toward licensure, the applicant must have a minimum of 400 hours of direct contact with patients. Similarly, if the applicant is applying 1,500 hours of postdoctoral experience toward licensure, the applicant must have completed a minimum of 600 hours of direct patient contact. If the applicant has completed 2,000 postdoctoral hours, but applying only 1,000 hours toward licensure, the applicant must have 400 hours of direct patient contact.

In addition, if an applicant falls short of forty percent of the number of hours of supervised postdoctoral experience applied toward licensure, the applicant may continue to work to achieve the required number of hours. For example, if the applicant is applying 1,000 postdoctoral hours toward licensure and the applicant has completed only 350 hours of direct patient contact (50 hours short of the required 40 percent), the applicant may continue to work under supervision to complete the remaining 50 hours.