

Effective for residents who enter training on or after July 1, 2021.

Throughout this document

- *the term “patient” refers to a person under the care of a forensic psychiatrist in the context of a physician-patient relationship,*
- *the term “evaluee” refers to a person under assessment by a forensic psychiatrist at the request of a third party,*
- *the term “individual” refers to a patient under the care of or an evaluatee under assessment by a forensic psychiatrist, and*
- *the term “third party” refers to a person or organization that has requested an independent forensic psychiatry opinion.*

DEFINITION

Forensic Psychiatry is a branch of medicine concerned with the intersection of mental health and the legal system, in which scientific expertise and clinical expertise are applied to legal and administrative issues in contexts involving civil, criminal, correctional, or legislative matters.

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY PRACTICE

Forensic psychiatrists provide consultation on psychiatric issues relevant to the law for individuals or third parties such as the courts, lawyers, employers, correctional institutions, and other institutions. Forensic psychiatrists work with individuals of any age who are involved with the civil or criminal legal systems, including individuals in custody and on probation or parole, and individuals who pose a risk of violent or sexually offending behaviour.

As psychiatrists interacting with the legal system, forensic psychiatrists have two roles: a clinical role in which they provide psychiatric assessment and ongoing care, and a forensic assessment role in which they provide evidence-based opinions and psychiatric expertise on civil, criminal, or correctional matters such as questions of capacity, criminal responsibility, fitness to stand trial, and risk assessment. In the forensic assessment, forensic psychiatrists have a duty to provide opinions that are fair, objective, and nonpartisan, even if their opinion may appear adverse to the interests of the evaluatee. For a given individual, at different times or circumstances, a forensic psychiatrist may have either role; it is incumbent on the forensic psychiatrist to establish the nature of the encounter and clarify the physician’s role within the encounter with the patient or evaluatee.

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY COMPETENCIES (2021)

Forensic psychiatrists assess the patient or evaluatee and gather collateral information. They may select, administer, or interpret specialized scales for diagnosing and assessing psychopathy, risk assessment tools, psychological and neuropsychological testing, laboratory and diagnostic imaging tests, and other investigations. They develop a formulation of the case, apply jurisprudence, and provide reports of their findings. They may develop management plans that address the underlying mental illness as well as factors identified in risk assessments. They provide testimony in legal settings, including courts and tribunals.

Forensic psychiatrists interact with legal professionals, correctional system workers, justice officials, provincial/territorial licensing bodies, employers, disability insurance providers, and child protection agencies, as relevant to the legal or administrative issue.

Forensic psychiatrists work in hospitals, dedicated forensic facilities, correctional institutions, and private offices. Forensic psychiatrists' practices may differ due to a number of factors, including jurisdictional variations in provincial/territorial health acts; proximity to correctional facilities and access to that population; availability of resources such as sexual behaviour clinics and mental health programs offered in treatment centres; and personal interest in civil, criminal, correctional, or legislative matters.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN TRAINING

Royal College certification in Psychiatry.

OR

Eligibility for the Royal College examination in Psychiatry.

OR

Registration in a Royal College-accredited residency program in Psychiatry.
(See requirements for these qualifications.)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION¹

All candidates must be Royal College certified in Psychiatry in order to be eligible to write the Royal College examination in Forensic Psychiatry.

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY COMPETENCIES

Medical Expert

Definition:

As *Medical Experts*, forensic psychiatrists integrate all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional values in their provision of forensic psychiatry services. Medical Expert is the central physician Role in the CanMEDS Framework

¹ These eligibility requirements do not apply to Subspecialty Examination Affiliate Program (SEAP) candidates. Please contact the Royal College for information about SEAP.

and defines the physician's clinical scope of practice.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

1. Practise medicine within their defined scope of practice and expertise

- 1.1. Demonstrate a commitment to high-quality care of patients
- 1.2. Integrate the CanMEDS Intrinsic Roles into their practice of Forensic Psychiatry
- 1.3. Apply knowledge of the clinical, socio-behavioural, and biomedical sciences, as well as medical jurisprudence, relevant to Forensic Psychiatry
 - 1.3.1. Etiology, symptoms, principles of diagnosis, course of illness, and treatment of all mental health disorders, with particular expertise in
 - 1.3.1.1. Antisocial personality disorder and psychopathy
 - 1.3.1.2. Impulse control disorders and dysfunctional anger
 - 1.3.1.3. Malingering and factitious disorders
 - 1.3.1.4. Sexual dysfunction, paraphilic disorders, and sexually offending behaviours
 - 1.3.2. Ethical issues in Forensic Psychiatry
 - 1.3.2.1. Competing ethical principles
 - 1.3.2.2. Confidentiality and the limits of confidentiality
 - 1.3.2.3. Consent to treatment and substitute consent
 - 1.3.2.4. Duty to the patient as well as to administration of justice
 - 1.3.2.5. Duty to warn/protect the public
 - 1.3.2.6. Ethical issues in research on involuntarily detained individuals
 - 1.3.2.7. Professional boundaries and limits of expertise
 - 1.3.2.8. Striving for objectivity and honesty
 - 1.3.3. General principles of Forensic Psychiatry practice
 - 1.3.3.1. Standards and procedures for involuntary treatment
 - 1.3.3.2. Consulting with third parties
 - 1.3.3.3. Role of expert witnesses in the legal system
 - 1.3.3.4. Criminal, civil, and tribunal procedures; the rules of evidence; and structure of the court system
 - 1.3.3.4.1. Civil and criminal procedures as applied to psychiatric testimony

- 1.3.4. Principles of criminal Forensic Psychiatry
 - 1.3.4.1. Criminal Code of Canada, case law, and other legislation regarding
 - 1.3.4.1.1. Fitness to stand trial
 - 1.3.4.1.2. Not criminally responsible on account of a mental disorder (NCRMD) defense
 - 1.3.4.1.3. Review Board hearings
 - 1.3.4.1.4. Long-term offender and dangerous offender assessments
 - 1.3.4.2. Risk assessment and risk management, including structured clinical and actuarial assessment
 - 1.3.4.3. Special psychiatric defences, including automatism, intoxication, diminished intent, and battered spouse syndrome
 - 1.3.4.4. Sentencing
 - 1.3.5. Principles of correctional psychiatry
 - 1.3.5.1. Structure and function of federal and provincial/territorial correctional systems, including the youth correctional system
 - 1.3.5.2. Assessment and management of risk in the correctional setting
 - 1.3.5.3. Transinstitutionalization
 - 1.3.5.4. Prescribing in the correctional setting
 - 1.3.5.5. Issues related to assessment, management, and treatment of special populations in the correctional and community setting
 - 1.3.5.5.1. Sexual offenders
 - 1.3.5.5.2. Violent offenders
 - 1.3.5.5.3. Mentally disordered offenders
 - 1.3.5.5.4. Individuals with psychopathy
 - 1.3.6. Principles of child and adolescent Forensic Psychiatry
 - 1.3.6.1. Child abuse and neglect
 - 1.3.6.2. Child custody
 - 1.3.6.3. Children's rights
 - 1.3.6.4. Family law
 - 1.3.6.5. Youth Criminal Justice Act
 - 1.3.6.6. Assessment and treatment of young offenders
 - 1.3.6.7. Youth and adult sentencing options
 - 1.3.6.8. Intensive rehabilitative custody and supervision (IRCS) orders
 - 1.3.7. Principles of civil Forensic Psychiatry
-

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY COMPETENCIES (2021)

- 1.3.7.1. Capacity and competency, including testamentary and contractual capacity, and conservatorship/guardianship
- 1.3.7.2. Determination of psychiatric disability
- 1.3.7.3. Fitness to work
- 1.3.7.4. Medical and psychiatric negligence
- 1.3.7.5. Occupational health and workplace safety relevant to Forensic Psychiatry
- 1.3.7.6. Personal injury: causation and damage
- 1.3.7.7. Tort law as relevant to Forensic Psychiatry

- 1.3.8. Principles of administrative Forensic Psychiatry
 - 1.3.8.1. Health law and regulation of the health professions
 - 1.3.8.1.1. Access to information
 - 1.3.8.1.2. End-of-life law and policy
 - 1.3.8.1.3. Mental health law
 - 1.3.8.1.4. Privacy rights

 - 1.3.8.2. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
 - 1.3.8.3. Governance structures of
 - 1.3.8.3.1. Canadian and provincial/territorial forensic mental health care systems
 - 1.3.8.3.2. Legal organizations related to Forensic Psychiatry

- 1.3.9. Paraphilic disorders and sexually offending behaviours
 - 1.3.9.1. Paraphilic disorders
 - 1.3.9.2. Clinical and actuarial risk assessment of sexual offenders
 - 1.3.9.3. Laboratory assessment of sexual offenders, including phallometric testing and visual reaction time
 - 1.3.9.4. Psychological and pharmacological treatment of sexual offenders

- 1.4. Perform appropriately timed assessments with recommendations that are presented in an organized manner
 - 1.4.1. Perform a forensic psychiatric assessment and prepare well-documented assessment reports and recommendations in written and oral form, in response to a request from a third party, taking into account the specific ethical considerations and legal requirements
 - 1.4.2. Provide expert testimony in courts and tribunals

- 1.5. Carry out professional duties in the face of multiple competing demands

- 1.6. Recognize and respond to the complexity, uncertainty, and ambiguity inherent in forensic psychiatry practice
- 2. Perform a forensic psychiatric assessment and establish a management plan, as applicable**
 - 2.1. Establish the nature of the forensic psychiatry encounter with the patient or evaluatee
 - 2.2. Prioritize issues to be addressed in a forensic psychiatry encounter
 - 2.3. Gather relevant information, perform a mental status exam, select appropriate investigations, and interpret their results for the purpose of diagnosis, risk management, treatment, disease prevention, and health promotion, as applicable
 - 2.3.1. Advise the individual regarding the limits of confidentiality in the forensic psychiatry encounter
 - 2.3.2. Advise the individual about the right not to participate or answer specific questions
 - 2.3.3. Gather information about the psychiatric illness, legal context, potential for self-harm or harm to others, and risk factors as applicable to the situation
 - 2.3.4. Gather collateral information
 - 2.3.5. Select and interpret results of investigations
 - 2.3.5.1. Medical investigation or consultation
 - 2.3.5.2. Risk assessment measurement tools, including actuarial and structured professional judgment (SPJ) tools
 - 2.3.5.3. Psychological testing
 - 2.3.5.4. Neuropsychological testing
 - 2.3.5.5. Neuroimaging
 - 2.3.5.6. Assessments specific to sexual offenders, including phallometric testing and visual reaction time
 - 2.3.6. Interpret available data and integrate biopsychosocial information
 - 2.3.7. Generate an evidence-based differential diagnosis
 - 2.3.8. Assess an individual's potential for self-harm or harm to others
 - 2.3.9. Assess the impact of co-morbid medical, psychiatric, and developmental issues or substance abuse on criminal responsibility
 - 2.3.10. Develop a comprehensive case formulation that integrates neurobiological, phenomenological, psychological, and socio-cultural issues

- 2.4. Establish goals of care in collaboration with patients and their families², which may include slowing and altering disease progression, treating symptoms, achieving recovery, improving function, and providing supportive care
- 2.5. Establish a patient-centred management plan, addressing biological, psychological, and socio-cultural domains
 - 2.5.1. Safety and security measures for the patient and the community
 - 2.5.1.1. Interventions to effectively minimize risk
 - 2.5.1.2. Prevention methods against self-harm and harm to others
 - 2.5.2. Appropriate level of care
 - 2.5.3. Use of appropriate psychotherapies and other treatments
 - 2.5.4. Use of appropriate pharmacotherapy

3. Plan and deliver therapies

- 3.1. Determine the most appropriate therapies
- 3.2. Obtain and document informed consent, explaining the risks and benefits of, and the rationale for, a proposed therapy
 - 3.2.1. Obtain and document substitute consent in patients who are incapable of consenting to treatment
- 3.3. Prioritize therapies, taking into account clinical urgency and available resources

4. Establish plans for ongoing care and, when appropriate, timely consultation

- 4.1. Implement a patient-centred care plan that supports ongoing care, follow-up on investigations, response to treatment, and further consultation

5. Actively contribute, as an individual practitioner and as a member of a team providing care, to the continuous improvement of health care quality and patient safety

- 5.1. Recognize and respond to harm from health care delivery, including patient safety incidents
- 5.2. Adopt strategies that promote patient safety and address human and system factors

² Throughout this document, references to the patient's family are intended to include all those who are personally significant to the patient and are concerned with his or her care, including, according to the patient's circumstances, family members, partners, caregivers, legal guardians, and substitute decision-makers.

Communicator

Definition:

As *Communicators*, forensic psychiatrists establish the nature of the forensic psychiatry encounter and interact with patients, evaluatees, and stakeholders to gather and share information, as appropriate, for effective delivery of health care and medico-legal services.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

1. Establish professional relationships with patients, evaluatees, and third-parties

- 1.1. Convey the nature and object of the assessment, and the limits of confidentiality, to the evaluatee
- 1.2. Communicate with a person-centred approach that encourages trust and autonomy and is characterized by forensic empathy, respect, and compassion
 - 1.2.1. Recognize and respond to factors influencing an individual's reactions to the physician and others
 - 1.2.2. Recognize and respond to boundary issues, including when working with individuals with severe antisocial or borderline personality traits or behaviours
- 1.3. Optimize the physical environment for the patient's or evaluatee's comfort, dignity, privacy, engagement, and safety
- 1.4. Recognize when the perspectives, values, or biases of patients, evaluatees, physicians, or other health care or law enforcement professionals may have an impact on the assessment or the quality of care, and modify the approach to the individual accordingly
 - 1.4.1. Recognize and respond to issues of transference, including with individuals who are demanding; verbally, physically, or sexually violent; homicidal; hostile; silent; or withdrawn
 - 1.4.2. Recognize and respond to issues of countertransference
- 1.5. Respond to non-verbal behaviours to enhance communication
 - 1.5.1. Use non-verbal behaviours to convey respect, poise, professionalism, and credibility
- 1.6. Manage disagreements and emotionally charged conversations
- 1.7. Adapt to the unique needs and preferences of each individual and to each individual's clinical condition and circumstances

2. Elicit and synthesize accurate and relevant information

- 2.1. Use person-centred interviewing skills to effectively gather relevant biomedical and psychosocial information

- 2.2. Provide a clear structure for and manage the flow of an entire forensic psychiatry encounter
- 2.3. Seek and synthesize relevant information from other sources
- 3. Share information, opinions, and plans as appropriate to the nature of the forensic psychiatry encounter**
 - 3.1. Share clear, accurate, and timely information and explanations with patients and families, while assessing for understanding
 - 3.2. Convey clear, concise, accurate, and timely information about an evaluatee to third parties, including evidence-based opinions and conclusions
 - 3.3. Disclose harmful patient safety incidents to patients and their families
- 4. Engage patients and their families in developing plans that reflect the patient's health care needs and meet safety and security needs for the patient and the community**
 - 4.1. Facilitate discussions with patients and their families in a way that is respectful, non-judgmental, and culturally safe
 - 4.2. Assist patients and their families to identify, access, and make use of information and communication technologies to support their care and manage their health
 - 4.3. Use communication skills and strategies that help patients and their families make informed decisions regarding the patient's health
 - 4.3.1. Engage patients under involuntary treatment in decisions regarding their management, as appropriate
 - 4.3.2. Recognize that patients may have difficulty deciding on the best choice of treatment for themselves and may need support to build a therapeutic alliance and gain a better insight into their issues
 - 4.3.3. Offer referral for professional support, and provide information and links to peer support groups
- 5. Document and share written and electronic information about the forensic psychiatry encounter, in a manner appropriate to the nature of the encounter, to optimize decision-making, safety, confidentiality, privacy, and other goals**
 - 5.1. Document forensic psychiatry encounters in an accurate, complete, timely, and accessible manner, in compliance with regulatory and legal requirements
 - 5.1.1. Document relevant psychiatry findings in a legally defensible report, including
 - 5.1.1.1. An evidence-based differential diagnosis
 - 5.1.1.2. A comprehensive case formulation that integrates neurobiological, phenomenological, psychological, and socio-cultural issues involved in diagnosis and management
 - 5.1.1.3. An assessment plan, including appropriate medical, psychological, laboratory, and medical imaging examinations

- 5.1.2. Prepare well-supported written medico-legal reports addressing the following civil or criminal issues, where appropriate
 - 5.1.2.1. Fitness to stand trial
 - 5.1.2.2. Criminal responsibility
 - 5.1.2.3. Assessment for purposes of sentencing
 - 5.1.2.4. Risk assessment for future violent offences
 - 5.1.2.5. Determination of psychiatric disability
 - 5.1.2.6. Assessment of personal injury, including causation and damage
 - 5.1.2.7. Review Board risk and treatment needs assessment reports for patients who are NCRMD
 - 5.1.2.8. Fitness for work
- 5.1.3. Provide expert testimony in tribunals and in criminal and civil court proceedings
- 5.2. Communicate effectively using a written health record, electronic medical record, or other digital technology
- 5.3. Share information in a manner that enhances understanding and that respects privacy and confidentiality to the extent possible in the forensic context

Collaborator

Definition:

As *Collaborators*, forensic psychiatrists work effectively in a medico-legal team to achieve optimal delivery of services.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

- 1. Work effectively with physicians and other professionals in the health care, law enforcement, and legal systems**
 - 1.1. Establish and maintain positive relationships with physicians and other professionals
 - 1.2. Negotiate overlapping and shared responsibilities with physicians and other professionals in episodic and ongoing care across a variety of forensic settings
 - 1.2.1. Work effectively with health care professionals, legal professionals, and correctional and probation officers to plan and provide care for patients
 - 1.3. Engage in respectful shared decision-making with physicians and other professionals
 - 1.3.1. Convey diagnoses, risk management, and treatment effectively to non-medical professionals
-

- 2. Work with physicians and other colleagues in the health care, law enforcement, and legal professions to promote understanding, manage differences, and resolve conflicts**
 - 2.1. Show respect toward collaborators
 - 2.2. Implement strategies to promote understanding, manage differences, and resolve conflict in a manner that supports a collaborative culture

- 3. Hand over the care of a patient to another health care professional to facilitate continuity of safe patient care**
 - 3.1. Determine when care should be transferred to another physician or health care professional
 - 3.1.1. Provide urgent medical assistance for patients as necessary, arranging for referral and/or transport to an appropriate medical facility

 - 3.2. Demonstrate safe handover of care, using both oral and written communication, during a patient transition to a different health care professional, setting, or stage of care
 - 3.2.1. Ensure communication of and continued adherence to risk management plans during patient transitions to different health care professionals, settings, or stages of care

Leader

Definition:

As *Leaders*, forensic psychiatrists engage with others to contribute to a vision of high-quality health care and legal systems and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent services through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

- 1. Contribute to the improvement of the delivery of forensic psychiatry services in teams, organizations, and systems**
 - 1.1. Apply the science of quality improvement to the delivery of forensic psychiatry services
 - 1.2. Contribute to a culture that promotes safety
 - 1.3. Analyze safety incidents to enhance systems of care
 - 1.4. Use health informatics to improve the quality of patient care and optimize safety

- 2. Engage in the stewardship of health care and legal resources**
 - 2.1. Allocate health care and legal resources for optimal patient care and/or risk management

- 2.1.1. Apply knowledge of resources in different settings to provide optimal patient care and/or risk management
- 2.1.2. Consider costs and optimal utilization of risk management resources when making decisions and recommendations
- 2.2. Apply evidence and management processes to achieve cost-appropriate care and risk management

3. Demonstrate leadership in the health care system

- 3.1. Demonstrate leadership skills to enhance health care relevant to the Canadian legal system and its facilities
 - 3.1.1. Support the interprofessional team to balance clinical care and risk management
 - 3.1.2. Work effectively with forensic psychiatry organizations ranging in size from an individual clinical practice to organizations at the local, regional, provincial/territorial, and national levels
 - 3.1.3. Describe population-based approaches to forensic psychiatry services and their implication for medical practice
- 3.2. Facilitate change to enhance services and outcomes

4. Manage career planning, finances, and health human resources in personal practice(s)

- 4.1. Set priorities and manage time to integrate practice and personal life
 - 4.1.1. Prioritize professional duties effectively when faced with multiple patients and/or evaluatees, court dates, and legal or other issues
 - 4.1.2. Complete clinical responsibilities in a timely fashion
- 4.2. Manage personal professional practice(s) and career
 - 4.2.1. Develop and maintain a curriculum vitae with formatting and content appropriate for use in medico-legal proceedings
- 4.3. Implement processes to ensure personal practice improvement

Health Advocate

Definition:

As *Health Advocates*, forensic psychiatrists contribute their expertise and influence as they work with communities or patient populations to improve health care. They work with those they serve to determine and understand needs, speak on behalf of others when required, and support the mobilization of resources to effect change. In third party assessments, the health advocate role may not be applicable.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

1. Respond to a patient's health needs by advocating with the patient within and beyond the clinical environment

1.1. Work with patients to address determinants of health that affect them and their access to needed health services or resources

1.1.1. Work with patients to help them overcome barriers to better health

1.1.1.1. Family issues

1.1.1.2. Intellectual and developmental disabilities

1.1.1.3. Socio-economic disadvantage

1.1.1.4. Stigma of mental illness and criminality

1.1.1.5. Violence directed toward self or others

1.1.2. Facilitate patient access to post-detention rehabilitation and care

1.2. Work with patients and their families to increase opportunities to adopt healthy behaviours

1.3. Incorporate disease prevention, health promotion, and health surveillance into interactions with patients

2. Respond to the needs of the communities or populations they serve by advocating with them for system-level change in a socially accountable manner

2.1. Work with a community or population to identify the determinants of health that affect them

2.1.1. Promote awareness of the burden that mentally ill offenders may present to themselves, their families, systems, and victims

2.1.2. Apply knowledge of advocacy groups involved in supporting the interests of special populations within the forensic clientele

2.2. Improve clinical practice by applying a process of continuous quality improvement to disease prevention, health promotion, and health surveillance activities

2.3. Contribute to a process to improve health in the community or population they serve

- 2.3.1. Advocate for the ethical psychiatric treatment of those in the legal and correctional systems
- 2.3.2. Minimize stigma and the criminalization of the mentally ill through education of the court, correctional personnel, and others

Scholar

Definition:

As *Scholars*, forensic psychiatrists demonstrate a lifelong commitment to excellence in practice through continuous learning, and by teaching others, evaluating evidence, and contributing to scholarship.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

1. Engage in the continuous enhancement of their professional activities through ongoing learning

- 1.1. Develop, implement, monitor, and revise a personal learning plan to enhance professional practice
- 1.2. Identify opportunities for learning and improvement by regularly reflecting on and assessing their performance using various internal and external data sources
- 1.3. Engage in collaborative learning to continuously improve personal practice and contribute to collective improvements in practice

2. Teach students, residents, the public, and other health care professionals

- 2.1. Recognize the influence of role-modelling and the impact of the formal, informal, and hidden curriculum on learners
- 2.2. Promote a safe and respectful learning environment
- 2.3. Ensure patient, evaluatee, and learner safety is maintained
- 2.4. Plan and deliver learning activities
- 2.5. Provide feedback to enhance learning and performance
- 2.6. Assess and evaluate learners, teachers, and programs in an educationally appropriate manner

3. Integrate best available evidence into practice

- 3.1. Recognize practice uncertainty and knowledge gaps in clinical and other professional encounters and generate focused questions that can address them
- 3.2. Identify, select, and navigate pre-appraised resources
- 3.3. Critically evaluate the integrity, reliability, and applicability of health- and legal-related research and literature
 - 3.3.1. Access information from scientific and legal literature using current information retrieval tools

3.4. Integrate evidence into decision-making in their practice

4. Contribute to the creation and dissemination of knowledge and practices applicable to Forensic Psychiatry

4.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific principles of research and scholarly inquiry and the role of research evidence

4.2. Identify ethical principles for research and incorporate them into obtaining informed consent, considering potential harms and benefits, and vulnerable populations

4.2.1. Adhere to guidelines for ethical research, including obtaining valid consent where appropriate, ensuring lack of coercion and avoiding harm

4.2.2. Provide opportunities for vulnerable individuals such as persons with mental health problems and those involved in the legal/correctional system to participate in research, as appropriate

4.3. Contribute to the work of a research program

4.4. Pose questions amenable to scholarly investigation and select appropriate methods to address them

4.5. Summarize and communicate to professional and lay audiences, including patients and their families, the findings of relevant research and scholarly inquiry

Professional

Definition:

As *Professionals*, forensic psychiatrists are committed to ethical practice, high personal standards of behaviour, accountability to the profession and society, physician-led regulation, and maintenance of personal health.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Forensic psychiatrists are able to...

1. Demonstrate a commitment to patients and evaluatees by applying best practices and adhering to high ethical standards

1.1. Exhibit appropriate professional behaviours and relationships in all aspects of practice, demonstrating honesty, integrity, humility, commitment, compassion, respect, respect for diversity, and maintenance of confidentiality

1.1.1. Demonstrate punctuality and respect for deadlines and schedules

1.1.2. Project a professional demeanour, including attire appropriate to the setting

1.1.3. Demonstrate respect for the administration of justice, the duty to protect others, social responsibility, and striving for objectivity and honesty

- 1.2. Demonstrate a commitment to excellence in all aspects of practice
 - 1.2.1. Demonstrate an appreciation of the limits of findings, one's own professional limits, and the need to seek appropriate second opinions
 - 1.2.2. Strive for objectivity when addressing controversial issues and/or competing findings and presenting forensic psychiatry information in the medico-legal setting
 - 1.3. Recognize and respond to ethical issues encountered in practice
 - 1.3.1. Apply knowledge of ethical and legal requirements in the assessment of individuals for third parties, including maintaining neutrality and objectivity
 - 1.3.2. Recognize and recuse oneself from situations if not able to provide fair, objective, and non-partisan opinions or evidence
 - 1.4. Recognize and manage conflicts of interest
 - 1.5. Exhibit professional behaviours in the use of technology-enabled communication
- 2. Demonstrate a commitment to society by recognizing and responding to societal expectations in health care**
- 2.1. Demonstrate accountability to patients, evaluatees, and society by responding to societal expectations of physicians
 - 2.1.1. Demonstrate accountability to third parties when responding to legal questions
 - 2.2. Demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and quality improvement
- 3. Demonstrate a commitment to the profession by adhering to standards and participating in physician-led regulation**
- 3.1. Fulfil and adhere to professional and ethical codes, standards of practice, and laws governing practice
 - 3.1.1. Fulfil the requirements of the physician's duty to report
 - 3.1.2. Meet legal, ethical, procedural, and behavioural requirements when testifying
 - 3.2. Recognize and respond to unprofessional and unethical behaviours in physicians and other colleagues in the health care, legal, and correctional professions
 - 3.3. Participate in peer assessment and standard setting
- 4. Demonstrate a commitment to physician health and well-being to foster optimal patient care**
- 4.1. Exhibit self-awareness and manage influences on personal well-being and professional performance

FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY COMPETENCIES (2021)

- 4.1.1. Use strategies to heighten personal and professional awareness
 - 4.1.2. Explore and resolve interpersonal difficulties in professional relationships
 - 4.1.3. Apply stress management skills to ensure personal health and a sustainable practice
 - 4.1.4. Demonstrate a commitment to safe practices to minimize occupational risk
 - 4.1.5. Address personal impact of exposure to traumatizing information in legal cases and/or in providing care
 - 4.1.6. Use available resources and supports to minimize the impact of stressors on personal health and practice
- 4.2. Manage personal and professional demands for a sustainable practice throughout the physician life cycle
 - 4.3. Promote a culture that recognizes, supports, and responds effectively to colleagues in need

This document is to be reviewed by the Specialty Committee in Forensic Psychiatry by December 31, 2022.

Drafted – Specialty Committee and Office of Specialty Education – November 2019
Approved – Specialty Standards Review Committee – December 2019