

Section Combined Clinical/Counseling Student Policies

Policy Number: 713.6

Subject: Combined Clinical/Counseling Policy on the Use of Telesupervision

Combined Clinical/Counseling Policy on the Use of Telesupervision

- **An explicit rationale for using telesupervision**
 - Telesupervision serves as an alternative method of supervision when in-person supervision is impractical or unsafe. It is employed in the following scenarios:
 - If either the trainee or supervisor is ill, or some other variable makes it difficult for supervisor and supervisee to meet in person (e.g., distance, weather), telesupervision mitigates the risk. This ensures continuity of supervision while prioritizing health and safety.
 - During clinical emergencies that necessitate detailed consultation beyond telephone, telesupervision provides a valuable resource. Even when the supervisor is not physically present at the training site, this mode allows for timely and informed decision-making.
- **How telesupervision is consistent with overall aims and training outcomes;**
 - Telesupervision ensures uninterrupted supervision during unforeseen or complicated events. Telesupervision allows for consistent oversight without compromising client care.
- **How and when telesupervision is utilized in clinical training;**
 - Telesupervision is not permitted as the primary mode of supervision. Telesupervision is expected to be used for times when in-person is not feasible. It is not to be used as an alternative primary method of supervision. At no time is telesupervision allowed to exceed 50% of total supervision in a practicum. Telesupervision implementation should be scaffolded to meet the trainees needs. It is avoided in earlier phases of training, but its use could be allowed as therapists show increased competency.
- **How it is determined which trainees can participate in telesupervision;**
 - Trainees are expected to display proficiency in utilizing videoconferencing technology. Additionally, they should actively engage in supervision without defensiveness, effectively implementing feedback from their supervisors during client interactions. Organizational skills are essential for attending telesupervision sessions, and trainees must uphold the responsibility of safeguarding client privacy and confidentiality. Clear communication is crucial for conveying relevant information about clients and their clinical care.
- **How the program ensures that relationships between supervisors and trainees are established at the onset of the supervisory experience;**
 - Prior to commencing telesupervision, the supervisor and trainee will discuss the necessary safeguards and expectations for this type of supervision. Telesupervision expectations must be outlined in the supervisory expectations

document/syllabus for the training site.

- **How an off-site supervisor maintains full professional responsibility for clinical cases;**
 - The telesupervising supervisor assumes complete oversight and professional responsibility for all clients under the trainee's care. This includes maintaining operational proficiency with HIPAA-compliant software. Additionally, supervisors remain accessible to trainees, adapting telesupervision as needed based on specific supervisor-trainee contexts. Demonstrating warmth and fostering a connected relationship with trainees through virtual meeting technology is also essential.

- **How non-scheduled consultation and crisis coverage are managed;**
 - Supervisors remain accessible to trainees beyond scheduled supervision times, reachable via phone, text, or email for consultations. In cases where telesupervision is necessary outside of regular sessions, scheduling will occur through email, text, or other communication methods, without discussing client-specific information

- **How privacy and confidentiality of the client and trainees are assured; and**
 - During telesupervision, discussions related to client material will exclusively occur using HIPAA-compliant technology. The trainee and supervisor will ensure privacy by being in separate, confidential locations during telesupervision sessions. This may involve using headphones or other in-ear technology and positioning computers or phones away from windows to maintain patient privacy and confidentiality.

- **The technology and quality requirements and any education in the use of this technology that is required by either trainee or supervisor.**
 - USU's HIPAA-compliant Zoom accounts serve as the foundational technology for telesupervision. In cases where sites do not utilize HIPAA-compliant Zoom accounts, alternative videoconferencing methods that adhere to HIPAA standards will be made available to trainees at no cost.