

“Other” Supervision: An ABEC White Paper

Preface

This white paper is intended to offer interpretation and guidelines from the ABEC to Supervising Counselors (SCs) and Associate Licensed Counselors (ALCs) who seek clarification of “other” supervision specified in a Proposed Plan of Supervision (PPOS).

Basic Information

- Supervision of an ALC by a SC must include a minimum of 100 total hours annually.
- At least 50 of the 100 hours **must** be “one-to-one, face-to-face personal individual supervision” devoted to oversight of care provided by the ALC to clients. In this supervision category, the SC and ALC must be *physically present* in the same location unless an exception is authorized in the approval of the PPOS.
- One-to-one, face-to-face personal individual supervision is only acceptable when the specific SC approved for the ALC is *physically present* unless an exception is authorized in the approval of the PPOS.
- The “other” category of supervision is not necessarily intended to duplicate the characteristics or purpose of one-to-one, face-to-face personal individual supervision. Greater latitude exists to allow a *virtual presence* of the SC with the ALC as well as the modality of *group supervision*. However, **no form of “other” supervision is allowed without the presence of an ALC’s approved SC.**

Expectations for “Other” Supervision

- The SC is to be *physically or virtually present* with the ALC throughout any “other” supervision activity.
- *Physically present* means both the SC and the ALC are present at the same time and at the same location when supervision activities occur.
- *Virtually present* means both the SC and the ALC are present at the same time but not at the same location when supervision activities occur.
- “Other” supervision can simply be additional one-to-one, face-to-face personal individual supervision with both the ALC and the SC physically present at the same location.

- “Other” supervision can be virtual individual supervision with the ALC where the SC is virtually present via a distance medium (e.g., telephone, Skype, synchronous written electronic exchanges). **No form of virtual individual supervision in the “other” category is allowed without the virtual presence of the SC approved for ALC supervision.**
- “Other” supervision can be group supervision involving other ALCs devoted to oversight of their care with clients. **Group supervision requires the physical or virtual presence of the SC approved for the ALC’s supervision.**
- “Other” supervision can be individual or group supervision devoted to administrative tasks that involve client care or procedures specific to the practice setting so long as the SC is physically or virtually present (e.g., new clinical record keeping; new HIPPA compliance disclosure forms; creation of a professional will; revised billing procedures; public statement practices; resource center). **No form of individual or group supervision in the “other” category for administrative tasks is allowed without the physical or virtual presence of the SC approved for the ALC’s supervision.**
- “Other” supervision can be individual or group professional development or learning opportunities involving the ALC so long as the SC is physically or virtually present with the ALC (e.g., ALC & SC discussion of emerging professional topics; formal presentation by a professional attended by both the SC and the ALC). **Such professional development or learning opportunities in the “other” supervision category requires the physical or virtual presence of the SC approved for the ALC’s supervision.**

Final Comments

Supervision in the “other” category affords greater latitude for SC-ALC interactions. However, the SC and ALC must remember that **no form of supervision in the “other” category is allowed without the physical or virtual presence of the SC approved for the ALC’s supervision.**