



Circular No. (07/2019)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions /Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To whom it may concern from employers and institutions in the State of Qatar
Subject	Approval of “Psychological Counselor” scope within the “Allied Health Practitioners” scopes list
Date	16 May, 2019

“Qatar Council for Healthcare Practitioners presents to you its compliments”.

In the Department of Healthcare Professions’ pursuit to cope up with the best regional and international practices in the field of the registration/licensing, and in response to some incoming requests and after presenting this issue to the “psychology and psychiatry” expert panel, the “Psychological Counselor” scope of practice has been approved within the “Allied Health Practitioners” scopes list. Accordingly, it is mandatory to obtain a medical license issued by the Department of Healthcare Professions to practice this scope as per the attached registration/licensing requirements.

Attachment:

- Psychological Counselor’s registration/licensing requirements.

For further information, kindly contact:

- Jowaher Al Ali** : Jalali@moph.gov.qa
- Dr. Souma El-Torky** : seltorky@moph.gov.qa

**Thank you for your cooperation,
Registration section/ Department of Healthcare Professions**



Criteria	Psychological Counsellor
Definition	Psychological Counsellors work with individuals, couples, families, groups, and organizations; over a short or long term to help them bring about effective change or enhance their wellbeing. Psychological Counsellors may assess and treat mental and emotional disorders, including addictive disorders; employ psycho-educational techniques aimed at the prevention of such disorders; consult with and conduct research into more effective therapeutic treatment modalities. Psychological Counsellors may not prescribe drug therapies or dispense medication. Psychological Counsellors may not do independent psychological testing and will not provide care in cases of severe/serious mental illness or in psychiatric emergencies.
Practice Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Primary Care • Medical Facilities (Hospitals, Clinics) • Schools, Universities and Special Needs Centers • Governmental & Private Sector organizations • Psychological Counselling centers (under development)
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's or doctoral degree in Psychological counseling, Family Therapy, Mental health or any health related field from an accredited institution of higher education, including an internship and coursework on human behavior and development, effective counseling strategies, ethical practice, and other core knowledge areas.
Scope of Practice	<p>The scope of Psychological Counselor specialty involves :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual counseling • Group counseling • Clinical Psychological counseling • Childhood Psychological counseling • Couples Psychological counseling • Family Psychological counseling • Specific group Psychological counseling • Behavioral deviation Psychological counseling • Managerial and professional Psychological counseling • Educational level Psychological counseling • Safety Psychological counseling • <p>The scope of Psychological Counselor services also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling sessions • Assessment & Psychological Benchmarking • Psychological Counseling programs to adjust behavior and understandings of different age groups • Professional and self-development counseling programs



	<p>The Services which are not in the Scope of the Psychological Counselling</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independent Psychological Testing (cognitive, intellectual, neuropsychological) 2. Treatment of Severe/Serious mental illness 3. Psychiatric/Psychological emergencies. In case of psychiatric / psychological emergency, psychology counselor to refer the patient to appropriate facility. Some examples of Psychiatric/Psychological emergencies include but not limited to suicidality, eating disorder, risk of harm to the patient or others.
Licensure	The Psychological Counsellor must apply for registration & licensing through Qatar Council For Healthcare Practitioners (MOPH).
Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For individuals whose terminal degree is a Master's degree: Completion of a minimum of 3,000 hours (usually 2 year equivalent) of post-master's degree supervised clinical experience. • For individuals whose terminal degree is a Doctoral degree: Completion of a minimum of 1500 hours (usually 1 year equivalent) of post-doctoral's degree supervised clinical experience.
Competency validation	Competency will be validated through the verification of education (degree), certificates and relevant clinical experience.
Other Requirement for Evaluation & licensing	<p>(Refer to QCHP requirement for license Registration & licensing)</p> <p>http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Allied%20Healthcare%20Practitioners.pdf</p>
Requirements for License renewal	<p>(Refer to additional QCHP requirement for license Registration/Evaluation)</p> <p>http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Allied%20Healthcare%20Practitioners.pdf</p>