



Circular No. (11/2020)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions /Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All Healthcare Practitioners in the state of QatarAll Healthcare Facilities/focal points in the state of Qatar
Subject	Approval of “Assistant Psychologist” scope within the “Allied Health Practitioners” scopes list
Date	22 July, 2020

“Department of Healthcare Professions 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 after presenting this issue to the Permanent Licensing Committee in their 10th meeting of the year 2020, which was held on 6/7/2020; the “Assistant Psychologist” 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.

In addition to that, the “Psychologist” scope will no longer be available for new applicants and only the existing licensed practitioners will continue to have that scope and will be allowed to apply for renewal or change their scope of practice to “Psychological Counselor” or “Clinical Psychologist” if they have the required educational qualifications and experience.

Attachment:

- Assistant Psychologist’s registration/licensing requirements.

For further information, kindly contact:

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



Criteria	Assistant Psychologist
Definition	The Assistant Psychologist is a collaborative and supportive member of a mental health team. Their duties may include direct patient work, research data collection, education, and clinical case management. Assistant Psychologists cannot call themselves psychologists or practice independently, including offering any kind of therapeutic services without supervision. This is an entry level position in the mental health field and the Assistant Psychologist will typically aid clinical psychologists, psychological counsellors, and physicians in clinical work and research.
Practice Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Primary Care • Medical and Research Facilities (Hospitals, Clinics, Clinical Research Labs) • Schools, Universities, Rehabilitation and Special Needs Centers • Governmental & Private Sector organizations
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, or any mental health related field, OR • Bachelor's Degree in a health-related field, including coursework on human behavior and development, OR • Current Enrollment in a Master's degree program in Psychology or a mental health related field, OR • Master's degree in Psychology or a mental health related field
Scope of Practice	<p>An Assistant Psychologist is a healthcare professional who, under supervision, provides mental health assessment, diagnosis, treatment for adults and/or children with a broad range of mental health needs. The Assistant Psychologist provides psychological services as part of a multidisciplinary team, in order to aid Clinical Psychologists, Psychological Counsellors, and Physicians in mental health clinical care and research.</p> <p>The scope of the Assistant Psychologist includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case management • Administering psychological tests • Preparing intake summaries and treatment plans • Charting patient progress • Carrying out related documentation • Collecting human subjects' data for mental health-related research studies • Providing consultation to other care providers and health educators on matters relating to mental health • Individual counseling and psychotherapy • Group counseling and psychotherapy
Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Psychologists may not practice independently and must have a designated supervisor who is licensed by DHP. • Supervisor must be one of the following: A Doctoral-level Licensed Clinical Psychologist, a Doctoral-level Licensed Psychological Counsellor, or a Licensed Psychiatrist. • A single supervisor cannot supervise more than four (4) Assistant Psychologists simultaneously. • Supervisor must be employed in the same setting as the Assistant Psychologist.



Licensure	The Assistant Psychologist must apply for certification through Department of Healthcare Professions (MOPH).
Experience	<p>For overseas candidates:</p> <p>A minimum of 2 years post-graduation or certification of supervised experience working as a Assistant Psychologist or in the same field.</p> <p>For Qatar Universities' Graduates, Qatari Nationals, or Residents' offspring / spouses who are graduated abroad:</p> <p>Minimum 3 months of supervised internship experience working in a mental health clinic, hospital, school, research lab, or private center</p> <p>(please refer to QCHP circular No. 1/2016.)</p>
Competency validation	Competency will be validated through the verification of education (degree), certificates and relevant clinical experience.
Other Requirement for Evaluation & Registration	<p>(Refer to DHP requirement for license Registration/Evaluation)</p> <p>http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Allied%20Healthcare%20Practitioners.pdf</p>
Requirements for License renewal	<p>(Refer to additional DHP requirement for license Registration/Evaluation)</p> <p>http://www.qchp.org.qa/en/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Allied%20Healthcare%20Practitioners.pdf</p>