

# Update: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Pre-Accredited Associate Members seeking first time accreditation from IAHIP.

Update for the period from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

The Governing Body of IAHIP have clarified and approved the following for Pre-Accredited Associate Members who are seeking first time accreditation from IAHIP in addition to information contained within Bye-Law 11, Addendum one and Addendum two:

- Training in the practice of remote psychotherapy is essential for students who will be seeing clients remotely from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
- All Pre-Accredited Associates and Student Associates can attend online personal therapy and online supervision where face-to-face is not available. There is no cap with availing of online personal therapy or online supervision.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Year Students & Pre- Accredited Associates**

- For remote training hours worked by current 4<sup>th</sup> year Student and Pre-Accredited Associate members, the Governing Body has agreed to lift all caps on remote clinical practice working hours (Video and telephone only) from 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students**

- For 3<sup>rd</sup> year Student Associate members, the Governing Body has agreed to lift all caps on video remote clinical practice working hours from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Student Associate members are not sanctioned for use of telephone sessions which are not currently recommended by IAHIP and will not be considered for accreditation purposes.

#### **For all applicants**

- Individual logs of clinical practice need to be continued/maintained to record the number of video, phone and face-to-face sessions as limitations may become applicable given the changing environmental circumstances.
- Working remotely is defined as 1:1 video or phone clinical practice, personal therapy and supervision and must have a duration of a minimum of 50-60 minutes per psychotherapy session (more frequent shorter sessions that accumulate to 50-60 minutes do not constitute a psychotherapy session).

**Note:** A clear distinction needs to be made between psychological/parent/family support etc. and psychotherapy. Psychological support for the parents and/or family members of the main client are an example of this. Psychological support sessions do not qualify for the purposes of accreditation.

- 50 clinical hours from Phase 1 of the minimum 200 required during that phase can be carried over to Phase 2 and completed at a ratio of 1: 4 hours supervision before starting the full pre-accredited 1: 8 ratio hours.
- Please note that supervision of clinical practice whether Phase 1 or Phase 2 where possible should be face-to-face with the exception of Covid 19 restrictions.
- Regarding Under 18 Clients – Guardians are contracted to provide a space that is confidential to the under 18 client & therapist only. Guardians are also contracted that sessions are not recorded in whole, or part recorded. The ongoing cooperation of guardians in these issues are a minimum requirement for therapy to proceed. The guardian is mandated that, in partnership with the therapist, they keep the therapist informed on these matters. Supervisors need to be vigilant in their Supervision of client hours for under 18 clients.
- End-to-End encryption platforms must be used to ensure the confidentiality of clinical practice. Therapists need to be vigilant regarding the platforms they use for clinical work.
- Therapists working remotely need to contract with their clients that sessions in whole or part are not recorded i.e., Siri & Alexa etc.
- Group Supervision, Group Therapy & Didactic Supervision hours by phone are not permissible for Accreditation purposes
- Therapists need to discuss with their supervisors their own fitness to practice should they test positive for Covid 19 or if they are isolating due to being a close contact with a positive case of Covid 19.
- **Insurance:** Legally and ethically all IAHIP psychotherapists are mandated to have Professional Indemnity insurance in place for the chosen modes of practice used. All Insurance Certs must list both Video & Phone if those modes of practice are used for the relevant periods of remote practice forwarded for application. For those working in agencies, evidence of the agency's Professional Indemnity Insurance governing the modes of practice used in the agency is required. If working with clients in other legal jurisdictions the insurance cert must specify the legal jurisdiction that the policy covers.

Further information on the application process will be included in an addendum on [www.iahip.org/accreditation](http://www.iahip.org/accreditation) once approved by the Governing Body.

The Governing Body has requested that the COVID Working Group conduct a review in October 2021 and will release further information in December 2021 for the quarter beginning 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Please note: The Governing Body of IAHIP reserve the right to adjust the guidelines at any time.