

Board of Examiners of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors

Scope of Practice

Licensed Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor Licensed Associate Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor

I. Purpose

This Scope of Practice Statement is intended to provide a definition of a professional alcoholism and drug abuse counselor's rights and responsibilities and to distinguish this profession from other behavioral healthcare professionals.

II. Introduction

Alcohol and other drug abuse counseling is the application of general counseling theories and treatment methods adapted to specific alcohol and drug theory and research, for the express purpose of treating persons with alcohol and other drug problems and persons with co-occurring psychiatric disorders within our diverse society.

III. Foundations of Alcohol and Drug Counseling

The practice of alcohol and drug counseling is based on the following knowledge:

1. Pharmacology and psychopharmacology of alcohol and drugs (drugs of abuse and drugs used in the treatment of addictions and other psychiatric disorders).
2. Addiction processes including: models and theories of addiction; social and cultural context of addiction; biological, psychological and social effects of addiction; and the differentiation and interrelations of addiction from other medical and psychological conditions.
3. Various treatment models and methods including: models of treatment, relapse prevention, and continuing care; impact of treatment on problems associated with addiction; co-occurring psychiatric disorders; the importance of community, social, family and self-help systems.
4. Practical application including: use of interdisciplinary approaches and teams in treatment; assessment and diagnostic criteria; appropriate use of treatment modalities; adapting treatment strategies to a patient's individual characteristics and needs; and the use of other resources in securing the best available services for the patient.

5. Professional standards of practice including: recognizing the needs of diverse populations relating to issues of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS and co-occurring psychiatric disorders; adherence to ethical and professional standards of conduct; commitment to continuing education and clinical supervision; awareness of policies and procedures for patients and staff safety; an understanding of etiology, treatment and prevention; and the clinical application of current research in alcohol and drug treatment.

IV. Scope of Practice

The practice of alcohol and drug counseling consists of the activities listed below. The practice of these activities will conform to the individual's level of training, education and supervised experience.

1. Clinical Evaluation of Drug and Alcohol Issues

Screening of Alcohol and Drug Problems

Assessment of Alcohol and Drug Problems

Screening for the presence of other Psychiatric Disorders

Diagnosis of Alcohol and Drug Problems

2. Treatment Planning

Case Management

Implementing the Treatment Plan

Consulting

Continuing Assessment and Treatment Planning

Referral

Cultural Diversity

Patient Advocacy

3. Counseling

Individual Counseling

Group Counseling

Family Counseling

4. Education and Prevention

Patient

Family

Community

5. Documentation

6. Professional and Ethical Standards

