



Sexual Relationships With Patients

This position statement was originally developed by the Canadian Psychiatric Association's Professional Standards and Practice Committee and first approved by the Board of Directors on June 1, 1985. The statement was subsequently revised and the Board of Directors approved it for republication on September 22, 1995 and June 2, 2009.

This statement was reviewed and retained as an official CPA position statement on November 19, 2015.

The unique nature of the psychiatrist-patient relationship has the potential for progression into boundary violations. Psychiatrists need to be vigilant to avoid sexualizing the therapeutic relationship.

The Canadian Psychiatric Association deems any form of sexualization by the psychiatrist of the psychiatrist-patient relationship to be unethical.

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