



Sexual Relationships with Patients

This position statement has been revised by the Canadian Psychiatric Association's Standing Committee on Professional Standards and Practice and approved for republication by the CPA's Board of Directors on June 2, 2009. The original position statements were developed by the Professional Standards and Practice Committee and approved by the Board of Directors on June 1, 1985 and September 22, 1995.

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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