

**POSITION STATEMENT
PSYCHOLOGISTS PROVIDING PSYCHOTROPIC
MEDICATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

July 11, 2007

Psychology is a dynamic profession that continues to grow and develop. A recent development, encompassing the past two decades, has been the movement to include prescribing psychotropic medication within the scope of competence of practicing psychologists. Psychologists have long been recognized as experts in the field of mental functioning and the various treatments available for mental illness. In this regard, psychologists also consult with other health professionals (including medical doctors) according to the needs of patients, including patients' needs for psychotropic medications. Practicing psychologists provide consultation to other health professionals, and to our patients, to the degree and specificity consistent with each respective psychologist's education, training and experience.

It is a natural evolution for practicing psychologists to obtain additional education, training and experience in order to be able to prescribe psychotropic medications. As individual state laws are modified to permit prescribing by such practicing psychologists, psychologists will obtain the necessary education, training and experience consistent with the specific requirements of each state's law. At the time of this writing, there are currently provisions in the laws of Guam, New Mexico, Louisiana, and the United States military permitting psychologists to prescribe. In each of these jurisdictions, the specific path to independent prescribing by practicing psychologists may vary with regard to specific aspects of the training required. They all, however, follow a similar model of education, training and experience that builds on the previously existing education, training and experience held by practicing psychologists. This additional training and supervised experience is extensive, demanding, and focused, thus assuring benefit to and protection of the mental health consumer.

We are aware of several states in which the respective Boards of Psychology (licensing authorities) have issued specific statements affirming that the scope of license for a psychologist includes the ability to discuss medications with patients and other health professionals. Through the issuance of this position statement, the associations below further affirm the historical practice of psychologists providing information regarding medication to our patients and other health professionals, including currently sanctioned prescribers, as an integral part of professional psychological healthcare practice, as well as more direct medication recommendations as allowed by education, training, experience, and the respective laws governing the practice of psychology.

The scope of the professional psychological healthcare practice and license includes providing consultation and information regarding psychotropic medications. Because we are aware of some confusing and inaccurate representations that have been made about psychologists providing medication consultations, this statement serves to clarify the respective associations' position that making such consultation reflects the recitation of knowledge and science and is not the equivalent of prescribing medications. As such,

this form of consultation would not constitute a violation of statutory prohibitions against prescribing by psychologists.

Signed:

California Association of Psychology Providers (CAPP)
National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers (NAPPP)
Academy of Medical Psychology (AMP)

The California Association of Psychology Providers (CAPP) is a California State-Wide Association of California Licensed Psychologists that emerged in 1983 and was soon followed by the favorable decision in *CAPP v. RANK* decision by the California Supreme Court regarding the scope of practice of psychologists providing care in hospitals. CAPP includes student affiliate members, associate members from other professions and from other states. The Mission of CAPP is to advocate for and protect the rights of the public to the services of psychologists and to enhance the authority of psychologists to provide the “best practices” of psychological care for their patients. CAPP: 23461 South Pointe #190, Laguna Hills, CA 92653, (949) 380-7383. capp.nappp.org.

The National Alliance of Professional Psychology Providers is a national organization of licensed, doctoral level psychologists who provide mental health services. Many of NAPPP's members are trained in clinical psychopharmacology including those licensed to prescribe in Louisiana and New Mexico. NAPPP's mission is to promote psychological practice within the context of a caring mental health system. Our noted board of directors includes three former American Psychological Association presidents and nine psychologists who are trained in clinical psychopharmacology. NAPPP: P.O. Box 6263, Garden Grove, CA 92846. nappp.org.

The Academy of Medical Psychology (AMP) has been actively involved with prescriptive authority (RxP) training for licensure for the past decade. The mission of the AMP is to facilitate accountability in the provision of essential services in medical psychology to promote standards of practice for the benefit of the public. It is our intention to assist State and Provincial Boards by identifying doctoral level psychologists that had completed didactic training, a national examination and had acquired experience prescribing under supervision. AMP also created its American Board of Medical Psychology (ABMP) and in 2005 began issuing this Board-Certified Diplomate upon an individual passing an examination in Medical Psychology. AMP: 4545 South 86th Street, Lincoln, NE 68526, (402) 483-6990.