



**College of  
Occupational Therapists  
of British Columbia**

**COTBC Practice Standards for  
Professional Boundaries, 2017**

**Practice Standard #1:  
Fostering Therapeutic Relationships**

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# Practice Standards for Professional Boundaries



## Practice Standard #1: Fostering Therapeutic Relationships

### Principle Statement:

As related to professional boundaries, the occupational therapist will foster therapeutic relationships with his or her clients in a transparent, ethical, client-centred manner with respect for diversity of beliefs, uniqueness, values, and interests.

### Practice Expectations

The occupational therapist must do the following:

1. Assume responsibility for anticipating, establishing, maintaining, and communicating appropriate professional boundaries with the client.
2. Respect each client's uniqueness and diversity, taking into account such factors as the client's capacity, beliefs, values, choices, religion, lifestyle, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and culture.
3. Obtain, maintain, and document informed client consent. Refer to *Obtaining Consent to Occupational Therapy Services*.

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## Practice Standards for Professional Boundaries



### Practice Standard #1: Fostering Therapeutic Relationships, continued

#### Principle Statement:

As related to professional boundaries, the occupational therapist will foster therapeutic relationships with his or her clients in a transparent, ethical, client-centred manner with respect for diversity of beliefs, uniqueness, values, and interests.

#### Practice Expectations, continued

4. Use a client-centred approach.
5. Apply skills to build rapport with the client including the use of active listening skills and communicating in a respectful, nonjudgmental manner.
6. Regularly reflect on the occupational therapist's own practice and participate in professional development related to fostering therapeutic relationships.