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## ABSTRACT

Competencies for the clinical practice of consultation-liaison psychologists

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The purpose of this study was to explore psychologists' competencies in treating various physical diseases. A total of 20 consultation-liaison psychologists (CLPs) and 23 medical professionals who regularly collaborate with psychologists (the average number of years of collaboration with psychologists was 9.0 years) participated in focus group interviews. We recorded the interviews verbatim, and five CLPs and one university professor analyzed the interviews qualitatively. We identified eight clusters, 13 categories, 80 subcategories, and 228 specific behaviors under the clinical practice competencies of CLPs. The eight cluster areas we identified were "learning attitude", "knowledge", "creating a foundation for activities", "assessment", "interdisciplinary communication", "intervention", "consultation", and "self-management". This study revealed basic competencies for psychologists working in the medical setting: basic knowledge of medicine, psychological intervention for patients and families, and collaboration with other medical professionals. Furthermore, we clarified specific behavioral competencies for CLPs, including preparation before meeting the patient, assessment, and participation in wards and medical teams. This study contributes to the advancement in education and training for CLPs.

**Key Words:** consultation-liaison, clinical psychologist, competency, qualitative analysis

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