

Procedure 8.1

Certifications and Memberships in Imago Relationships International

This procedure relates primarily to mental health professionals, but there is reference to educators relating to advanced clinical training.

1. Overview

Imago clinical practice has the power to enable powerful transformations in people's relationships and their lives. Some of the power of Imago has been experienced by therapists who pick up the "Getting the Love You Want" book, and use a few exercises with their clients. However, Imago also provides a wealth of depth in clinical practice and training which can enable therapists to produce results far more consistently, and to be successful with clients experiencing severe problems in their relationships.

Full integration of Imago therapy into a therapist's work usually requires extensive training, which often includes the integration of the Imago approach into the therapist's own relationships and life. In addition, the most advanced therapists often succeed because they have developed such a deep understanding of Imago that they can use it instinctively and with full confidence. This enables them to focus all their attention to attunement to their clients.

For this reason Imago training is best understood as a lifetime journey of growth, which passes through several key stages. The training, certification and membership levels are structured to help a clinician pass through those stages and achieve the appropriate recognition and support at each stage.

Several key principles are incorporated into the training structure:

- The training is a journey. Certification does not represent the end of a therapist's growth, but just signifies that they have attained a standard of competence.
- Therapists who have completed the training often require significant support to help them through the work required for certification
- The Basic Clinical Training is divided into two parts. Both Level I and Level II are required for certification
 - Level I covers the first 12 days of training, and some clinical tape reviews
 - Level II focuses on the practical application of Imago with clients, while working with an Imago Trainer or Mentor as a consultant

2. Stages of Training and Membership

(Qualified therapist refers to a therapist who meets the pre-requisite requirements for clinical training or who has been admitted to the extended clinical track)

2.1 Trainees

There are two types of trainee. A FACT trainee is a qualified therapist who has completed one or two of the FACT (Flexible Access Clinical Training) modules, and has developed some basic Imago skills. A certification trainee is a qualified therapist who has joined a training leading to certification. This might be either enrolling in the full 12-day 200SG certification program, or a FACT trainee who subsequently joined the final 8 days of a 200SG program leading to certification

2.2 Level II Trainee

A qualified therapist involved an approved consultation process who has completed Level I of the training, but still needs to complete Level II which includes the reports and tape evaluations required to certify.

2.3 Certified Imago Therapist

A qualified therapist who has both Level I and Level II of the training, and has had their final tape accepted.

2.4 Certified Advanced Clinician

A Certified Imago Therapist who has completed advanced training requirements set out in the course catalogue. This level is not available to educators.

2.5 Certified Imago Workshop Presenter

Who has completed additional training and is certified to present the "Getting The Love You Want" workshop. Further training is required for additional workshops such as "Keeping the Love You Find". Educators may also be Certified as Workshop Presenters, but are limited to presenting the workshop in partnership with a therapist who is a Certified Workshop Presenter.

3. Registrations and information

When therapists commence training, they will be registered in the IRI online database. This will be used to track their progress. (Plans are in place for this information to be available to each trainee through a dashboard)

The database will record their qualifications, pre-requisites, courses completed and Imago CEUs, together with other relevant information

4. Permissions and listings

Level	What the therapist can do: Permissions	What the therapist may say about themselves	IRI listing and membership
Trainee	Use what they have learned of Imago therapy in their practice	May tell their clients that they are in Imago training and are using this modality as part of their training program	No listing or membership
Level II Trainee	Use Imago Therapy in their practice	Represent themselves publicly as having completed Level I of the Imago Clinical Training program, provided they remain in an approved consultation	Listed as Level II Trainee Level II Trainee member free, for 6 months, then \$95 for two years only. After this period the therapist will need to be Certified in order to continue being listed Special invitation to Conference. Special session during conference
Certified Imago Therapist	As above Present at conferences and meetings for up to 6 hours, and demonstrate the intentional dialogue and flooding in public	Represent themselves publicly as a Certified Imago Therapist	Listed as Certified Imago Therapist Full member - fee required
Advanced Clinician	As above	Represent themselves publicly as a Certified Advanced Clinician	Listed as Certified Advanced Clinician Full member - fee required
Workshop Presenter	As above Present "Getting the Love You Want" workshop. And Singles if trained further	Represent themselves publicly as a Certified Imago Workshop Presenter	Listed as Workshop Presenter Full member - fee required
Workshop Presenter (E)	Educator Certified to present the workshop in partnership with a Workshop Presenter	Represent themselves publicly as a Certified Imago Workshop Presenter	

5. Consultation requirements for Level II Clinical Training

The primary aim of the Level II training is to guide the trainee through the certification process. It should be structured to encourage and support the trainee to prepare the 3 month and 6 month reports, and the final evaluation tape. Ideally Level II training should also involve Mentors and Therapists from the local Imago organization, to help connect the trainee with their local group.

The consultant may be the original trainer, another Certified Clinical Instructor, or someone appointed by the faculty as a recognized Imago Mentor. Mentor's will be Advanced Clinician's and Workshop presenters, whose current work is well known to a faculty member who recommends them. The Faculty will appoint a Mentoring committee to approve recommendations from faculty members, and will work with local and regional Imago Groups to encourage their members to be recognized as Mentors.

The Basic Clinical Training program will included 6 months Consultation as part of the package included in the price.

All trainees who joined a Certification program prior to June 1 will be granted Level II trainee membership status and offered 6 months of Level II training at no cost by their original trainer. (Not all faculty members are able to offer this service).

Level II training is an additional cost to the Level I.

The fee will be \$100 per month for a minimum of 6 months of consultation, and \$195 for the final tape evaluation, including one year of free membership in IRI

6. Guidelines for consulting during Level II

The primary focus of Level II is on the development of Imago clinical skills through case consultation and tape review.

The trainer should encourage the trainee to submit tapes, reminding them that it is one of the most effective ways to improve clinical training, and also that this will help them work towards the quality of tape required for certification.

Level II consultation may be provided in a variety of ways, depending on the trainer's preference, and geographic limitations.

Typically each trainee should receive 1 hour per month of individual supervision or 3 hours per month of group supervision (or more if group is large).

Typical models include the following:

- Monthly group consultation – 3 hours per month (longer if group is larger)
- Monthly group meeting for one-day, every two months

- Individual consulting – 1 hour per month
- Monthly group phone bridge 1.5 hr with 0.5 hr per month individual on phone or face-to-face

7. Reviewing Certification and procedures for withdrawal

This procedure is to be followed where there are questions about whether a Certified Imago Therapist is complying with the terms of the agreement. If the concern is about ethics, then the Ethics Procedure will be followed, and this process does not apply.

The following steps will be followed:

1. The Executive Director will write to the member setting out specific concerns about how their actions lie outside our agreement, and asking for their comments. The first letter will be primarily focused on asking questions, and wishing to hear from them. It will not set out timescales or conditions. The ED will consult with the Board Chair.
2. If the Executive Director and Board Chair feel the response is satisfactory the issue will be closed.
3. If there is no response, or the response is not satisfactory, the next step will be to send a follow-up letter which states clearly that we are concerned that their actions are outside the terms of certification, and we are inviting them to dialogue with us about their ongoing certification.
 - a. The letter will include a requirement to respond within 30 days, indicating their willingness to dialogue, or actions they have taken to address our concerns.
 - b. If there is no response within 30 days, there will be a second letter to say that at the next Executive Committee meeting there will be a vote on their continued certification, and they must contact us immediately if they wish to be heard.
4. If there is a response, there will be a telephone dialogue with the member, the Board Chair and the Executive Director. Another Board member who is a Certified Imago Therapist will be invited to facilitate. Depending on the results of that dialogue the Board Chair and ED may either report to the Executive Committee that the issue is resolved, or will bring a recommendation to the Executive Committee for Certification to be removed.
5. The Executive Committee will vote on the removal of Certification, requiring a simple majority.

6. The decision will be communicated to the therapist, giving them an opportunity to appeal. The request for an appeal needs to be registered in writing with the Executive Director within 30 days.
7. The appeal will be in the form of a telephone dialogue, facilitated by a Board Member who is a Certified Imago Therapist. The appeal will be heard by the Board Chair, The Chair of PTSC, and the Board/Faculty liaison (Faculty advisory Chair).
8. The appeal committee will make a recommendation to the Board, and the Board's decision based on that recommendation will be final.