

What is the difference between a Psychologist and a Psychiatrist?

As stated above, a Psychologist is a regulated health care practitioner who has a PhD and is registered with the College of Psychologists of Ontario. A psychiatrist is also a regulated health care provider, however, a psychiatrist has completed a medical degree (MD) and has specialized training in the field of mental health. Psychiatrists can prescribe medication; psychologists cannot. Psychologists are uniquely trained to use psychological tests and assessment measures to assist in diagnosis and treatment planning, while psychiatrists are not. Psychiatrists will often use medications to manage mental disorders, while psychologists will use psychotherapy. Psychiatrists are covered by OHIP, while psychologists are not.