



April 14th, 2021

Dear registrants and new graduates,

We are writing to address issues raised about the Canadian Entry to Practice (CETP) exam.

Background

The College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM)'s mission is to **protect and serve the public** by regulating and ensuring competent, safe and ethical practice of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in Manitoba.

Passing qualifying exams is a typical requirement to enter many professions including physiotherapy, dentistry, medicine, law, etc. This helps ensure **consistent competency and standards** for those practicing in Canada — regardless of the educational institution attended – and is in the best interests of the public.

For these reasons, CASLPM has been working with the Canadian Alliance of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Regulators (CAASPR) for many years to develop and implement a **mandatory, national standardized competency exam** for both Canadian and international applicants.

In November 2020, an inaugural CETP exam was administered to recently graduated practitioners with Provisional Registration in Manitoba. CASLPM established that passing is a requirement to receive Full Registration.

Situation

Due to exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which included exam date delays, CASLPM felt it unfair to postpone graduates from obtaining work in their field and so all registrants were granted provisional registration prior to passing the CETP exam.

CASLPM had every expectation that most, if not all, registrants would pass the exam — presuming competence of graduates of approved university programs, and given that the exam was primarily based on the former Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC) certification exam, which had been successfully administered for decades. Unfortunately, there were a few Manitoba exam writers who did not pass the exam. Consequently, CASLPM cancelled their certificates of practice.

After their certificates of practice were cancelled, issues arose at the national level between CAASPR (the exam administrator) and SAC (the exam vendor) and their members, which now makes it uncertain when the next exam will be administered in Manitoba. We can confirm, however, that no Manitoba registrants or applicants will be writing the June 2021 CETP exam.

As such, CASLPM has decided to offer **provisional registration to registrants who did not pass the exam, allowing them to return to work under the guidance of mentors. Provisional registration has also been granted to new graduates who have yet to write the exam.**

Should the CETP exam be administered in Manitoba within the next 12 months as of today's date, all provisional registrants who received registration after March 1st, 2020, and all new graduates, **will be required to write and pass the CETP exam.**

To protect Manitobans, CASLPM remains committed to ensuring the high standards of practice for audiologists and speech-language pathologists are met and to uphold the integrity of our practice. We understand the frustration and confusion of some registrants and employers over the last few months related to this new policy. We are reviewing our policies and practices to improve processes going forward, and we ask you to be patient during the exceptional circumstances temporarily caused by the pandemic and other external factors.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns about this or any other CASLPM matter.

Regards,

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