

Introduction

This *Diagnosis Standard of Practice* outlines expectations to ensure consistent, accurate, and effective assessment practices that meet the needs of individuals with communication, hearing, and swallowing disorders towards making diagnosis. Registrants of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM) may make diagnoses under the following categories:

Reserved acts for the practice of audiology include *“Making a diagnosis of an auditory or vestibular dysfunction or disorder and communicating it to an individual or his or her personal representative in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or representative will rely on the diagnosis to make a decision about the individual’s health care.”*

Reserved acts for the practice of speech-language pathology include *“Making a diagnosis of a speech, language, or related communication dysfunction or disorder or a swallowing dysfunction or disorder and communicating it to an individual or his or her personal representative in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that the individual or representative will rely on the diagnosis to make a decision about the individual’s health care.”*

Registrants of CASLPM performing services in other jurisdictions, virtually or in person, should consult with the regulatory body in that jurisdiction as to guidance on communication of diagnosis. Registrants are responsible for meeting the expectations outlined in this Standard and the accompanying guidelines. These documents are enhanced by a companion *Diagnosis Examples of Alternative Language* document.

Standard

Registrants of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists Manitoba are responsible for diagnosing and treating communication, auditory, and swallowing disorders, as well as providing consultations and education to other professionals and the public.

Demonstrating the Standard

Registrants will:

- Use a client-centered approach.
- Maintain confidentiality and obtain consent.
- Demonstrate cultural and social competence.
- Take a case history that includes assessment.
- Collaborate with other professionals as appropriate.
- Only make diagnoses that are appropriate and within the registrants Scope of Practice and as defined in the *Practice of Audiology and Practice of Speech-Language Pathology Regulation 191/2013*.
- Ensure diagnoses are explained clearly and thoroughly to the patient, with recommendations for next steps and possible treatment options.
- Communicate assessment results with the appropriate terms and qualifiers.
- Refer to other professionals or programs as needed.
- Maintain timely and accurate diagnostic reports/notes and documentation.