

Minimum Practice Hours Guidelines

Introduction

These guidelines outline the Scope of Practice for the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology and outline the requirements for currency of practice within a five-year practice hours period.

Scope of Practice for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

Practice Hours ensure that registrants have engaged in professional practice as defined in the scope of practice for their profession:

“The scope of practice of audiology is

- a) the assessment of auditory and vestibular functions; and
- b) the treatment and prevention of auditory and vestibular dysfunctions;
to develop, maintain, rehabilitate or augment auditory, vestibular and communicative functions and auditory and vestibular health.

The scope of practice includes education, administration and research related to audiologists.”

“The scope of practice of speech-language pathology is

- a) the assessment of speech and language functions, related communication disorders and swallowing functions; and
- b) the treatment and prevention of speech and language dysfunctions and disorders, including vocal tract dysfunction and related swallowing dysfunctions and disorders;
to develop, maintain, rehabilitate or augment oral motor, communicative functions, vocal tract dysfunction, or elective modification of communication behaviours, and to enhance communication.

The scope of practice includes education, administration and research related to speech-language pathology.”

Five-Year Practice Hours Period

The minimum practice hour requirement is for Full Regulated registrants to annually renew their certificate of practice.

Full Regulated registrants:

- Engage in professional practice as indicated in the scope of practice for their profession.
- Have their practice hours assessed within the five-year period immediately before applying for renewal.
- Have a minimum practice hour currency of 1250 hours within the previous five-year period.
- Have at least 410 practice hours* spent providing direct client service (*see definition below*)

within the previous five-year period.

**It is possible that all practice hours will be under direct client service.*

Definition of Direct Client Service

Direct Client Service is defined as engaging in professional practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, which includes:

- assessment of the hearing, vestibular, communication or swallowing abilities and needs of the client.
- recommending, developing, or implementing a treatment and/or management program based on the clients' abilities and needs.
- counseling and consulting with the families/caregivers and/or other parties directly associated with the client.
- client management activities such as discharge, referrals, follow-ups, report writing, and/or case conferences.
- determining, on professional grounds, whether an individual client should receive or be discharged from audiology or speech-language pathology services.
- conducting or supervising research in audiology or speech-language pathology that involves the assessment or management of clients with communication disorders.
- overseeing and evaluating the clinical work of audiologists or speech-language pathologists (i.e., conducting performance evaluations or case reviews, assessing written reports, monitoring professional standards).
- providing education or administration related to audiology and/or speech-language pathology.

Non-Compliance

In the event a Full Regulated registrant does not meet the practice hour requirements, the Registrar may require the registrant to undergo any examinations, testing, assessment, training, or educational programs the Registrar considers necessary to determine the registrant is competent to practise and impose conditions on a certificate of practice which may include but are not limited to:

- Undergoing a period of mentorship.
- Limiting practise to specified professional service or area of practice.
- Refraining from practising specified reserved acts.
- Suspending the certificate of practice.