

Use of Titles, Credentials, Certification Designations, and Use of the Title “Doctor” Guidelines

Regulated Health Professions Act, Section 85, 86

Introduction

The purpose of these Use of Title Guidelines is to clarify who may use protected titles, abbreviations, and related designations and to promote consistent and accurate representation of professional status. Proper use of titles supports public protection, promotes transparency, and helps ensure that clients, employers, and the public can clearly identify qualified and regulated audiologists and speech-language pathologists in Manitoba.

Restricted Title Entitlement & Legislation (*CASLPM General Regulations, Section 3.9(1,2,3,4)*)

Registered audiologists are entitled to use:

- “Audiologist” and “Aud.”
- “Registered Audiologist” and “R. Aud.”
- the equivalent of those titles and abbreviations in another language

Registered speech-language pathologists are entitled to use:

- “Speech-Language Pathologist”, “SLP”, “Registered Speech-Language Pathologist”, “RSLP”
- “Speech Therapist”, “ST”, “Registered Speech Therapist”, “RST”
- “Speech-Language Therapist”, “SLT”, “Registered Speech-Language Therapist”, “RSLT”
- “Speech-Language Clinician”, “SLC”, “Registered Speech-Language Clinician” “RSLC”
- the equivalent of those titles and abbreviations in another language.

No Person other than a registrant of the College, either as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, is permitted to use the titles as set out as above. The purpose of this legislation is to protect the public by ensuring appropriate and authorized use of these titles.

- While registrants are not required to use authorized titles, the College encourages them to do so, as it helps promote clarity and prevent any confusion about their credentials.
- Title use is not permitted in any context in which a registrant is practicing outside the scope of practice of either audiology or speech-language pathology.

Use of title is a privilege granted to registrants of CASLPM who have demonstrated that they possess the required educational qualifications, knowledge, skills, and competencies to practice their profession. Registrants are accountable for the delivery of professional services and as such, a title of registration provides the public with important information, particularly in the case of formal communications.

Indicating Registration Category

Registrants in certain categories are required to indicate the registration category when using a title or abbreviation:

Non-practising registrants must include the term “(Non-Practising)”, or its equivalent in another language, immediately after the applicable title or abbreviation.

i.e. Jane Doe, Registered Audiologist (Non-Practising) Jane Doe, R. Aud. (Non-Practising)
John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist (Non-Practising) John Doe, RSLP (Non-Practising)

Restricted purpose registrants must include the term “(Restricted Purpose)”, or its equivalent in another language, immediately after the applicable title or abbreviation.

i.e. Jane Doe, Registered Audiologist (Restricted Purpose) Jane Doe, R. Aud. (Restricted Purpose)
John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist (Restricted Purpose) John Doe, RSLP (Restricted Purpose)

Inactive or retired registrants must include the term “(Inactive)” or the abbreviation “Inact.” or the term “(Retired)” or the abbreviation “(Ret.)”, as the case may be, or their equivalent in another language, immediately after the applicable title or abbreviation.

i.e. Jane Doe, Registered Audiologist (Inactive) Jane Doe, R. Aud. (Inact.)
John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist (Retired) John Doe, RSLP (Ret.)

Stating Academic Credentials

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists may wish to indicate their academic credentials in combination with the restricted titles granted to them by the College; however, use of academic credentials is not mandatory.

It is the restricted title that distinguishes audiologists and speech-language pathologists from other health care providers and assists clients with understanding who is providing their care.

Registrants may use academic credentials in conjunction with and after the use of a restricted title.

i.e. Jane Doe, Registered Audiologist, M. Sc.
Jane Doe, R. Aud., M. Sc.
John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist, M. Sc. John Doe, RSLP, M. Sc.

Stating Other Credentials

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists may use other credentials in combination with the restricted titles granted to them by the College.

- Other credentials must occur in conjunction with, and after the use of a restricted title.
- Registrants may use an abbreviated version of a recognized national or international clinical certification credential in the form approved by the national or international organization that

provided the registrant with that credential, if it is in keeping with the legislation that governs the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

- Registrants who use any additional credential(s) must present them accurately, honestly, and in accordance with any legal restrictions.

i.e. Jane Doe, Registered Audiologist, Aud(C) Jane Doe, R. Aud., Aud(C)

John Doe, Registered Audiologist, Canadian Academy of Audiology John Doe, R. Aud., CAA

John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist, Hanen Trained John Doe, RSLP, Hanen Trained

Jane Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist, S-LP(C) Jane Doe, RSLP, S-LP(C)

Use of the Term “Certified”

- A registrant must not use the term “certified” unless the registrant is specifically authorized to do so under the CASLPM Advanced Competency Certification Program.
- Only a full or restricted purpose regulated registrant who holds an advanced competency certificate for the applicable specialized health care service is permitted to use the following phrases as part of their title (CASLPM General Regulation, Section 4.13):
 - Certified in Vestibular Assessment and Management
 - Certified in Cochlear Implant Management
 - Certified in Fibreoptic (Flexible) Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of Voice Disorders
 - Certified in Fibreoptic (Flexible) Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of Swallowing Disorders
 - Certified in Voice Restoration (Voice Prostheses)
 - Certified in Swallowing and Voice Restoration (Tracheotomy Tubes and Speaking Valves)
 - Certified in Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Adult Swallowing Disorders
 - Certified in Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Pediatric Swallowing Disorders
- A full or restricted purpose registrant who holds an advanced competency certificate must not use any other phrase or designation to describe the certification.

Use of the Term “Licensed”

Full, provisional, and restricted purpose registrants who hold valid certificates of practice may use the term “licensed” to describe their professional practice.

Permitted Descriptions of Practice and Training

- Registrants may list the following when describing their practice:
 - The services they are trained in and are capable of providing.

- The techniques they have been trained to provide.
- The typical types of speech, language, swallowing, or hearing disorders they are trained to assess, treat, or prescribe.
- In addition, registrants
 - May not list services, techniques, or disorders that fall outside the scope of practice.
 - May state that listed services, techniques or disorders are a "preferred area of practice" or similar phrasing.
 - May not misrepresent any clinical expertise they hold or have obtained.
- In describing additional training, registrants may
 - Declare or inform the public they are trained in the performance of a specific technique or the provision of a particular service.
 - Refer to a certificate or diploma they have obtained in relation to a technique or service, ensuring the following:
 - The precise nature of the technique or service is described accurately.
 - The educational program or agency that granted the certificate or diploma to the registrant in relation to that technique or service are identified.
 - They do not use the term "specialist" or otherwise suggest they are a specialist in that technique or service.
- The registrar may require proof in support of any declaration or reference made under these guidelines.

Use of the Title "Doctor"

Registrants of CASLPM may not refer to themselves as "Doctor Jane" or "Doctor John Doe" in the course of providing health care in Manitoba.

In Manitoba, the law (the RHPA) limits who can use the titles "doctor," "surgeon," and "physician" when providing health care. Unless another law clearly allows it, health care providers cannot use the title "doctor" (or any variation, abbreviation, or translation of it) while delivering care.

What this means for registrants:

- Registrants must not call themselves "Dr. [Name]" when providing health care in Manitoba.
- This applies no matter how many degrees they hold, including doctoral degrees.

How academic degrees can be described

- Registrants should describe their education accurately and clearly, without implying they are a medical doctor.

- Registrants who have completed a doctoral degree may use the word doctor only with their full academic title, such as:
 - Doctor of Audiology
 - Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology
- These titles reflect academic achievement only, not professional authority or medical training.
 - Acceptable example: John Doe, Registered Audiologist, Doctor of Audiology (AuD)
 - Not allowed in health care settings example: Dr. John Doe
- The purpose of these rules is to avoid confusing clients and the public about who is a medical doctor and what services different health professionals are qualified to provide.
- Registrants must be careful in all communications, including:
 - Business cards
 - Websites
 - Emails
 - Reports
 - Verbal introductions
- Registrants must also ensure that staff and colleagues do not refer to them as “Doctor”, even informally or when clients are not present.
- Registrants who hold doctoral degrees may use the title “Doctor” or “Dr.” as a prefix (alone or with other words) only when working in teaching, research, or administrative roles, not when providing health care services.