

INFORMATION SHEET

Supportive Personnel Working Collaboratively with Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists

Supportive personnel (SP) work collaboratively to support the treatment of clients of various populations. This collaborative approach can enhance the services provided by speech-language pathologists (S-LP) and audiologists (AUD).

Listed below are a few key points to be considered by the supervising S-LP/AUD and the SP when entering into a working relationship.

1. **Supervision:** It is highly recommended that S-LP/AUD supervisor and SP decide on a schedule of direct and indirect supervision that meets required guidelines and promotes the best care for the client. Supervision must be documented by the supervisor however it is recommended that the SP also maintain a record of supervision.
2. **Scope of practice:** It is the responsibility of the supervising S-LP/AUD to ensure that the SP is assigned duties that are within their scope of practice. The supervising S-LP/AUD and the SP must follow CASLPA guidelines if they are members. Any provincial/territorial regulatory guidelines that exist must be followed and supersede CASLPA guidelines if differences exist in the scope. CASLPA guidelines can be found at http://www.caslpa.ca/english/profession/supportive_personnel_guidelines.asp
3. **Roles:** The client must be informed of the role of the SP and the supervising S-LP/AUD prior to the beginning of treatment. The client must be advised that they may contact the supervising S-LP/AUD at any time regarding their care. Questions directed to the SP that are outside of their scope of practice will be forwarded to the supervisor for response.
4. **Treatment plans/Screening procedures:** Treatment plans, screening procedures and other tasks assigned are to be followed by the SP and modifications must be approved in advance by the supervisor.
5. **Liability insurance:** In most cases, the S-LP/AUD professional liability insurance covers SP working with their clients. It is highly recommended that the SP ask their supervisor about their coverage, particularly whether or not the SP must be listed by name under the S-LP/AUD coverage, or if they should purchase their own professional liability coverage. Professional liability insurance is available through CASLPA for S-LP/AUD and SP at reasonable rates. <http://www.caslpa.ca/english/membership/AONreedstenhouse.asp>
6. **Licensure/regulation:** At this time, SP are not regulated/licensed in Canada.
7. **Quality of care:** S-LP/AUD/SP must follow the basic tenets of providing good care such as keeping accurate notes, documenting progress, maintaining client confidentiality and abiding by the Code of Ethics. Regular monitoring of a patient's progress must be conducted by the supervisor.
8. **Compensation:** Compensation including hours of work, travel time and preparation time should be discussed and outlined. (The 2008 salary survey can be found in the members-only section of the CASLPA website).

The supervising S-LP/AUD is ultimately responsible for the client and must be confident in the quality of services provided by the SP. The SP must be comfortable with the amount and type of supervision provided by the S-LP/AUD as well as the nature of the assigned tasks and/or the treatment goals outlined by the supervisor. All parties (i.e., S-LP/AUD, SP) must feel comfortable in requesting a review of the working arrangement at any time.

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