



## **College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists- Newfoundland and Labrador**

### **Scope of Practice for Audiology**

Audiologists are ethically bound to provide services that are consistent with the scope of their competence, education and experience. The scope of practice document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of activities and some may not fall into the exclusive domain of an audiologist.

#### **Definition**

Audiologists are autonomous professionals who have expertise in overall hearing and vestibular health. Audiologists identify, assess, diagnose and treat individuals with peripheral or central hearing loss, tinnitus and balance disorders.

Audiologists provide a number of different services related to hearing, tinnitus and balance for the individuals they serve. They are involved in a number of different activities to promote effective communication. These services may include:

- Assessment of hearing and balance disorders, which may involve screening, identification, evaluation and diagnosis.
- Intervention for hearing and balance disorders, which may involve promotion, prevention, counselling, treatment, consultation, management, (re)habilitation and education.
- Education and supervision of students and professionals, including supportive personnel.
- Consultation with and referral to other professionals.
- Research.
- University and/or college education and training.
- Administration, management and policy development.

Audiologists may work directly with clients, and/or with their caregivers and/or other persons who regularly interact with the client (e.g. friends, relatives, professionals, colleagues, supportive personnel) for the purpose of creating environments that promote optimal communication and vestibular health.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Audiologists may work alone or as part of an inter-professional team to help individuals of all ages to maximize their hearing health. As such, they provide a broad range of services that include the following activities:

- Clinical and/or instrumental screening, assessment, identification, diagnosis and treatment of:
  - Hearing disorders in infants, children and adults involving both peripheral and central pathways of hearing;
  - Auditory processing disorders;
  - Tinnitus, hyperacusis and misophonia; and
  - Balance disorders.
- Assessment, selection, taking ear mold impressions, dispensing, validation, verification and servicing of hearing aids.
- Assessment, selection and development of other appropriate hearing assistive and (re)habilitative strategies for individuals with hearing impairment, auditory processing, balance dysfunction, tinnitus and/or related disorders. This could include implantable hearing devices, assistive listening technology, aural (re)habilitation, tinnitus re-training and vestibular (re)habilitation.
- Intraoperative monitoring.
- Promotion of hearing health.
- Prevention, counseling and education services to clients, families, caregivers, other professionals and the public regarding all aspects of hearing and balance function.
- Advocacy on behalf of individuals with hearing, auditory processing, tinnitus and balance disorders and populations that are at risk.
- Consultation, assessment and management of educational, workplace and other public acoustical environments.
- Consultation with government, industry and community agencies regarding improvements to noise legislation and implementation of environmental and occupational hearing conservation programs.
- Consultation with worker's compensation boards and Veterans Affairs Canada regarding criteria and determination of pension/benefits for individuals with hearing loss and related disorders.
- Medical legal consultation including forensic audiology.
- Consultation with and referral to other professionals.
- Inter-professional collaboration.
- Case management and coordination of service delivery.
- Supervision and training of supportive personnel.
- Education, supervision and mentoring of students.
- University and/or college education and training related to hearing, balance and other related disorders.
- Research in the areas of hearing, balance and other related disorders.
- Screening for speech and language development for the purpose of hearing evaluation and/or the identification of individuals with other communication disorders that may require intervention.
- Cerumen management.

## **Practice Settings**

Audiologists work in a variety of health and education settings, including but not limited to hospitals, public health units, community health centres, schools, private practice, industrial settings, hearing aid and cochlear implant manufacturers, professional associations, universities, colleges and long term care facilities. Audiologists may function independently or within an inter-professional framework, collaborating with a variety of professionals.

Approved by the CASLP-NL Board of Directors, October 11, 2012

## **References**

Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC): Scope of Practice for Audiology, 2014