



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

## **Code of Ethics**

### **Preamble**

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists – Newfoundland and Labrador (CASLP-NL) members shall abide by the Code of Ethics, By-Laws and policies of CASLP-NL and Newfoundland and Labrador Council of Health Professionals (NLCHP). The Code of Ethics sets forth the fundamental values and standards essential to the responsible practice of audiology and speech-language pathology. The underlying values of the Code form the rationale for ethical standards and provide the basis for ethical practice and decision making. The standards within the Code guide members in maintaining professionally acceptable behavior in their practice.

This Code is construed as a general guide and not a denial of the existence of other duties equally imperative or other rights not specifically mentioned. Any act or omission by a registrant that is in violation of the spirit and purpose of this Code may be found to be unethical.

This Code of Ethics seeks to provide ethical foundations for the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology which are consistent with the Health Professions Act SNL 2010.

### **Ethical Principles**

#### **Principle 1**

The primary ethical obligation of audiologists and speech-language pathologists is to practice their skills for the benefit of their patients/clients.

#### **Principle 2**

In the pursuit of patient/client benefit, audiologists and speech-language pathologists have an ethical obligation to respect patients/clients as persons.

These two principles support the following rules governing the legal, professional, personal, public and business dimensions of the practice of audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

## **Rules Governing Practice**

### **1. Legal Constraints on Practice**

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 1.1 will abide by the laws of Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada including the Health Professions Act SNL 2010, and the regulation made there under;
- 1.2 will be registered with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists-Newfoundland and Labrador and abide by the regulations and standards of the College and the Council;
- 1.3 will be honourable and truthful in all their professional relations;
- 1.4 will respect patients'/clients' choice of practitioners;
- 1.5 will respect the patients'/clients' right to participate in treatment decisions and to be informed of potential risks and benefits of treatment options;
- 1.6 will respect the patients'/clients' right to decline treatment;
- 1.7 will not discriminate in their relationships with either their patients/clients or their colleagues on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or age;
- 1.8 will, conditional upon employment policies, have the right to select their caseload;
- 1.9 will make clear the constraints placed by research and educational goals on the patient/client-practitioner relationship.

### **2. Professional Constraints on Practice**

Audiologists and Speech- Language Pathologists:

- 2.1 will behave in a professionally exemplary manner refraining from physical, emotional, sexual, or financial abuse of patients/clients;
- 2.2 will practice within the limits of their competence as determined by their education, training and professional experience;
- 2.3 will administer only necessary assessment/diagnostic tests, accept persons for treatment if benefit can reasonably be expected to accrue, and continue treatment only if benefit can reasonably be expected.

- 2.4 will regularly participate in professional development and educational programs designed to improve quality of care;
- 2.4 will not allow supportive personnel or students to render services without adequate supervision;
- 2.5 will ensure that interpretation of results from assessment and treatment via Telehealth or other electronic means is completed by an audiologist or speech-language pathologist as appropriate.
- 2.6 will not participate in activities that could be construed as involving a conflict of interest; should a registrant identify himself/herself to be in such a conflict, the registrant is responsible for the prompt resolution of the conflict.
- 2.7 will exercise independent professional judgment before implementing professional service/prescription;
- 2.8 will maintain adequate records of services rendered and products dispensed and will allow access to these records when appropriately authorized;
- 2.9 will maintain the confidentiality and privacy of the information and records of those receiving services or involved in research, as required by the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA).
- 2.10 will notify the Complaints Committee when there is reason to believe that another registrant of the College has violated the Code.
- 2.11 will advise and cooperate with the Complaints Committee and the Disciplinary Committee during investigations of complaints concerning alleged violations of the Code, By-laws and Policies.
- 2.12 will ensure that all equipment used is calibrated and in proper working order;

### **3. Personal Characteristics**

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 3.1 will not practice if a physical or mental impairment affects their ability to provide quality services;
- 3.2 will protect the health and well being of their patients/clients and advocate for them when appropriate;
- 3.3 will utilize all possible resources to ensure that quality service is provided.
- 3.4 will provide a realistic statement of outcome;

- 3.5 will apprise patients/clients of programs and services from which they may benefit and initiate referrals as appropriate to others whose knowledge may contribute to the diagnosis, assessment/treatment and overall well being of those served.
- 3.6 will make available for potential public benefit any of their professional discoveries;
- 3.7 will develop and maintain positive professional relationships with their colleagues, students and other professionals;

#### **4. Public Relations**

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 4.1 will not misrepresent credentials, competence, education, training or experience;
- 4.2 will not represent themselves to the public as exclusive agents of the methods or techniques they employ;
- 4.3 will undertake to provide accurate information to the public;
- 4.4 will maintain the standards and dignity of the profession in all media involvement;
- 4.5 will acknowledge the contributions of others in a publication, presentation or product;
- 4.6 will cooperate with appropriate public officials to the extent required by law;

#### **5. Business Relations**

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 5.1 will set reasonable fee structures based on fair value for services rendered and will provide this information in advance of rendering these services;
- 5.2 will refrain from securing patents and copy rights that restrict practice and research.

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

Footnote: Code of Ethics, Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA), February, 2005

Code of Ethics, College of Audiologists and Speech-language Pathologists of Ontario, December 2010