



GENERAL STANDARD: HEALTH AND SAFETY

DATE: Reformatted August 2018



Standard

1

Members must remain current regarding infection prevention and control measures

All intervention procedures must ensure the safety of the patient and the member, and must adhere to current infection control practices, as indicated in the [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Audiology and the Infection and Prevention and Control Guidelines for Speech Pathology](#).

Members must ensure that all equipment used is disinfected/sanitized in accordance with [Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Audiology and the Infection and Prevention and Control Guidelines for Speech Pathology](#).

Members must also be aware of and comply with any manufacturers' recommendations with regard to materials and equipment. This includes sterilization or disposal of single use items.

Because hand washing is the single most important procedure for preventing infections, members must adhere to standard practices for hand washing. Members must use gloves in order to ensure that precautionary measures for blood and fluid-borne pathogens are taken.



Standard

2

Members must use current infection and prevention measures as specified by the practice setting.

Additional precautions may be warranted based on the specific practice setting and the particular procedures employed. Clinical interventions have the potential to be a vector for the transmission of infectious disease.

Precautionary measures for blood- and fluid-borne pathogens must be taken when necessary with patients/clients with chronic non-intact skin (e.g., chronic middle ear drainage, oral secretions) or where skin is fragile, such as with infants and the elderly.



Standard

3

All multiple use equipment and materials that come into contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin or blood must be disinfected using high level procedures.

The Spaulding Classification for disinfection as outlined in Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Audiology and the Infection and Prevention and Control Guidelines for SLPs identifies non-critical, semi-critical and critical and the corresponding level of disinfection required. Mucus membranes, non-intact skin and blood are situations in which high-level disinfection of any equipment is required. Further, manufacturers may have more rigorous disinfection recommendations or single use recommendation, which must be adhered to by members.



Standard

4

Members must endeavor to maintain patient and member safety at all times.

Occasionally, patients may display aggressive, self-injurious behavior, agitation, poor impulse control and/or inappropriate social behaviour. Consequently, patient safety, as well as member safety, is an important consideration. Members should ensure they have strategies and resources to manage the behaviours, when needed.

Resources, such as the [*Workplace Violence and Harassment: Understanding the Law \(2010\)*](#) Guide from the Ministry of Labour provides definitions of violence and threatening behaviours and outlines the member's responsibilities and rights under the [*Occupational Health and Safety Act \(1990\)*](#).