

BY-LAW NO. 2011-8

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario

A By-law providing for a Code of Ethics for the Members of the College

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1 PREAMBLE

- 1.1** The professions of audiology and speech-language pathology seek to maintain high standards of conduct and moral judgement in their practices and relationships with patients/clients, the public and fellow practitioners. These practices will be guided by moral principles and rules that assist the professional to choose the right, fair, good and just action. These moral principles and rules are stated as the Code of Ethics.
- 1.2** This Code of Ethics seeks to provide ethical foundations for the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology which
- (a) are consistent with the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Health Professions Procedural Code*, the *Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Act*, Regulations, By-laws and policies, and
 - (b) foster sound moral reasoning and personal integrity in professional conduct.

2 INTERPRETATION

- 2.1** The Definitions set out in By-law No. 1 shall apply to this By-law.
- 2.2** In this By-law, unless the context otherwise requires, the singular number or the masculine gender shall include the plural number or the feminine gender, as the case may be.
- 2.3** Each provision of this or any other By-law and any part thereof of the College shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the RHPA, Code, ASLPA and Regulations, and where an inconsistency is found to exist, and where practical, the inconsistent provision shall be severed from such By-law or any part thereof.

3 ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

3.1 Principle 1

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

3.2 Principle 2

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

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

4 RULES GOVERNING PRACTICE

1. Legal Standards Governing Practice
2. Professional Standards Governing Practice
3. Public Relations
4. Business Relations

4.1 Legal Standards Governing Practice

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 4.1.1 shall abide by the laws of Ontario and Canada including the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, the Code, the *Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Act, 1991* and the regulations made thereunder, and Council By-laws and policies;
- 4.1.2 shall be registered with the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario and abide by the regulations and standards of the College;
- 4.1.3 shall be honourable and truthful in all their professional relations;
- 4.1.4 shall respect patients'/clients' choice of practitioners;
- 4.1.5 shall respect the patients'/clients' right to participate in treatment decisions and to be informed of potential risks and benefits of treatment options;
- 4.1.6 shall respect the patients'/clients' right to decline treatment;
- 4.1.7 shall not discriminate in their relationships with either their patients/clients or their colleagues on the basis of any of the prohibited grounds listed in the *Ontario Human Rights Code*;
- 4.1.8 shall, conditional upon employment policies, have the right to select their caseload; and,
- 4.1.9 shall make clear any constraints placed on the patient/client-practitioner relationship.

4.2 Professional Standards Governing Practice

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 4.2.1 shall behave in a professionally exemplary manner including but not limited to refraining from physical, emotional, sexual, or financial abuse of patients/clients;
- 4.2.2 shall practice within the limits of their competence as determined by their education, training and professional experience;

- 4.2.3 shall regularly participate in professional development and educational programs designed to improve quality of care;
- 4.2.4 shall not allow supportive personnel or students to render services without adequate supervision;
- 4.2.5 shall ensure that the primary assessment/treatment/consultation with patients/clients will be a face-to-face or other professionally appropriate encounter;
- 4.2.6 shall avoid activities that could be construed as involving a conflict of interest;
- 4.2.7 shall exercise independent professional judgment before implementing professional service/prescription;
- 4.2.8 shall maintain adequate records of services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records when appropriately authorized;
- 4.2.9 shall ensure that all equipment used is calibrated and in proper working order;
- 4.2.10 shall not practice if a physical or mental impairment, condition or disorder affects their ability to provide quality services;
- 4.2.11 shall protect the health and well being of their patients/clients and advocate for them when appropriate;
- 4.2.12 shall utilize all possible resources to ensure that quality service is provided, acknowledging the need for referral in special cases;
- 4.2.13 shall provide an evidence-based statement of outcome;
- 4.2.14 shall apprise patients/clients of all programs and services from which they may benefit;
- 4.2.15 shall make available for potential public benefit any of their professional discoveries; and,
- 4.2.16 shall develop and maintain professional relationships with their colleagues, students and other professionals.

4.3 Public Relations

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 4.3.1 shall not misrepresent credentials, competence, education, training or experience;
- 4.3.2 shall not represent themselves to the public as exclusive agents of the methods or techniques they employ;

- 4.3.3 shall undertake to provide accurate information to the public;
- 4.3.4 shall maintain the standards and dignity of the profession in all media involvement;
- 4.3.5 shall acknowledge the contributions of others in a publication, presentation or product; and,
- 4.3.6 shall cooperate with appropriate public officials to the extent required by law.

4.4 Business Relations

Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

- 4.4.1 shall set reasonable fee structures based on fair value for services rendered and shall provide this information in advance of rendering these services; and,
- 4.4.2 shall, if they have patents or copyrights, use best efforts to ensure that it does not restrict practice and research.

Made by the Council of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario on the 10th day of December, 2010.

This By-law shall come into force and effect on the 1st day of January, 2011.

(Corporate Seal)

President

Vice-President of Audiology

Vice-President of Speech-Language Pathology