



PRACTICE ADVICE

USE OF THE TITLE "DOCTOR"

DATE: 2009

USE OF THE TITLE "DOCTOR"

CASLPO members have been requesting clarification on the use of the title "Doctor" by those members who have doctoral degrees.

The title "Doctor" is restricted in Ontario, by the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#) which states that, with the exception of chiropractors, optometrists, physicians, psychologists and dentists,

"no person shall use the title Doctor, a variation or abbreviation or an equivalent in another language, in the course of providing or offering to provide, in Ontario, health care to individuals."

Note that the restriction on the use of the title "doctor" is only in the course of providing or offering to provide health services. Therefore if you have a doctoral degree you can use the title "doctor" in any other setting, just so long as you are not offering health care.

We have advised our members that if they wish to refer to their academic qualifications when providing health care they should inform clients that they have a "Doctorate of Audiology", for example as shown below:

"Jane Doe, Doctor of Audiology, Audiologist".

"Sarah Williams, Ph.D. Speech Language Pathologist"

Members are not precluded from accurately setting out their academic qualifications but are not permitted to call themselves "Dr. Doe", regardless of their qualifications, when they are providing or are offering to provide health care in Ontario.

CASLPO has made many representations to the Government of Ontario requesting that members of a College who hold an earned doctorate degree in the discipline in which the person is registered by the College be allowed to use the title doctor in the course of providing or offering to provide health care to individuals. The college believes that to meet standards of fairness, consistency and reason, the RHPA should be revised to permit audiologists and speech-language pathologists with doctoral degrees to use the title "doctor" when providing health care services.

However, until the RHPA is amended the restrictions apply.

Please consult the College's [Position Statement on Use of the Doctor Title](#) for further details.