



## FAQ

# USE OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL BY AUDIOLOGISTS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

**Question 1:** Do audiologists have an obligation to supervise the activities of all non-audiologists in their workplace?

**Answer 1:** Audiologists are not responsible for tasks assigned to non-audiologists by employers. Therefore, the requirements outlined in this position statement do not apply.

**Question 2:** I am an audiologist who works alongside, but does not employ or supervise, non-audiologists who participate in service delivery. If I prescribe a hearing aid and a non-audiologist dispenses it, would this be considered assigning a task to support personnel and require me to assume responsibilities outlined in this position statement?

**Answer 2:** Audiologists are only responsible for tasks they personally assign and are not always required to supervise non-audiologist personnel, including those that dispense hearing aids. If you are not assigning the task of dispensing the hearing aid to a non-audiologist, the requirements outlined in this position statement do not apply.

**Question 3:** I am required in my workplace to supervise some of the administrative tasks completed by non-audiologist personnel. I do not assign them specific clinical tasks. What are my responsibilities?

**Answer 3:** General supervision by audiologists can occur without assigning clinical tasks. The requirements outlined in this position statement do not necessarily apply to all services performed by non-audiologists.

**Question 4:** My employer has indicated that I am to supervise non-audiologists who are not designated as support personnel. I am expected to manage assessment of clients/patients, to assign specific clinical tasks, to interpret and communicate results and, when indicated, prescribe hearing aids. Given that my employer has not identified the non-audiologists in the workplace as support personnel, do the requirements in this position statement apply?

**Answer 4:** Regardless of how your employer defines the role of non-audiologists, if you are supervising and assigning clinical tasks, the requirements of this position statement do apply. In such cases you should make attempts to resolve this matter with your employer.