CASLP-NL College of Audiologists & Speech Language Pathologists	COLLEGE OF AUDIOLOGISTS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Scope of Practice for Speech-Language Pathology

CASLP-NL acknowledges that Speech-language pathologists are ethically bound to provide services that are consistent with the scope of their competence, education and experience. The scope of practice document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of activities and some may not fall into the exclusive domain of a speech-language pathologist.

Definition

Speech-language pathologists are autonomous professionals who have expertise in typical development and disorders of communication and swallowing and who identify, assess, diagnose and treat disorders of communication and swallowing.

Speech-language pathologists provide a number of different services related to effective communication and swallowing for the individuals they serve. They are involved in a number of different activities to promote effective communication and feeding/swallowing. These activities may include:

- Assessment of communication and swallowing disorders, which may involve: screening, identification, evaluation, and diagnosis.
- Intervention for communication and swallowing disorders, which may involve: promotion, prevention, counselling, treatment, consultation, management, (re)habilitation, and education.
- Education and supervision of students and professionals, including supportive personnel.
- Consultation with and referral to other professionals.
- Research.
- University and/or college education and training.

• Administration, management and policy development.

Speech-language pathologists may work directly with clients, and/or with their caregivers and/or other persons who regularly interact with the client (e.g. friends, relatives, professionals, colleagues, supportive personnel) for the purpose of creating environments that promote optimal communication and swallowing.

Roles and Responsibilities

Speech-language pathologists may work alone or as part of an inter-professional team to help individuals of all ages to communicate effectively and to swallow safely and efficiently. As such, they provide a broad range of services and related activities including:

• Clinical and/or instrumental screening, assessment, identification, diagnosis, treatment, and management of:

- Speech development and disorders including articulation, phonology, motor speech.
- Language development and disorders, including expression and comprehension in oral or non-verbal modalities.
- Fluency disorders.
- Voice and resonance disorders.
- Accent modification.
- Swallowing and feeding disorders in adult and pediatric populations
- Cognitive-communicative disorders including social communication skills, reasoning, problem solving, and executive functioning.
- Preliteracy and literacy skills including phonological awareness, decoding, reading comprehension, and writing.
- Communication and swallowing disorders in the context of other diagnoses or impairments including but not limited to hearing impairments, traumatic brain injury, dementia, developmental, intellectual or genetic disorders, and neurological impairments.

• Assessment, selection, and development of augmentative and alternative communication systems and devices for individuals who are limited in their ability to communicate verbally, and provision of education and training in their use.
• Promotion, prevention, counseling, and education services to clients, families, caregivers, other professionals, and the public regarding all aspects of human communication, and disorders of communication and swallowing.

• Advocacy on behalf of individuals with communication and swallowing disorders and those who are at risk.

• Enhancement of speech and language proficiency and communication effectiveness including accent modification.

• Screening of hearing and other factors for initial identification and referral to audiologists, educators, and to other health and/or school-based professionals.

• Consultation with, and referral to, other professionals.

• Inter-professional collaboration.

• Case management and coordination of service delivery.

• Supervision and training of supportive personnel.

• Education, supervision, and mentoring of students.

• Research related to communication sciences and disorders, and swallowing.

• University and/or college education and training related to communication sciences and disorders and swallowing.

• Administration, management and policy development.

• Consultation with other government and insurance entities re: criteria and determination of benefits for individuals communication and swallowing disorders.

Practice Setting

Speech-language pathologists work in a variety of health and education settings, including but not limited to hospitals, public health units, community health centres, schools, private practice, professional associations, universities, colleges and long-term care facilities. Speech-language pathologists may function independently or within an inter-professional framework, collaborating with a variety of professionals.

Speech-language pathologists may also provide services via telepractice when appropriate.

Additional Considerations

All services are to be:

• provided in a manner that protects clients confidentiality

• culturally sensitive

• trauma-informed

References: **Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC):**
Scope of Practice for Speech Language Pathology, 2016
Official Statement, 2018

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