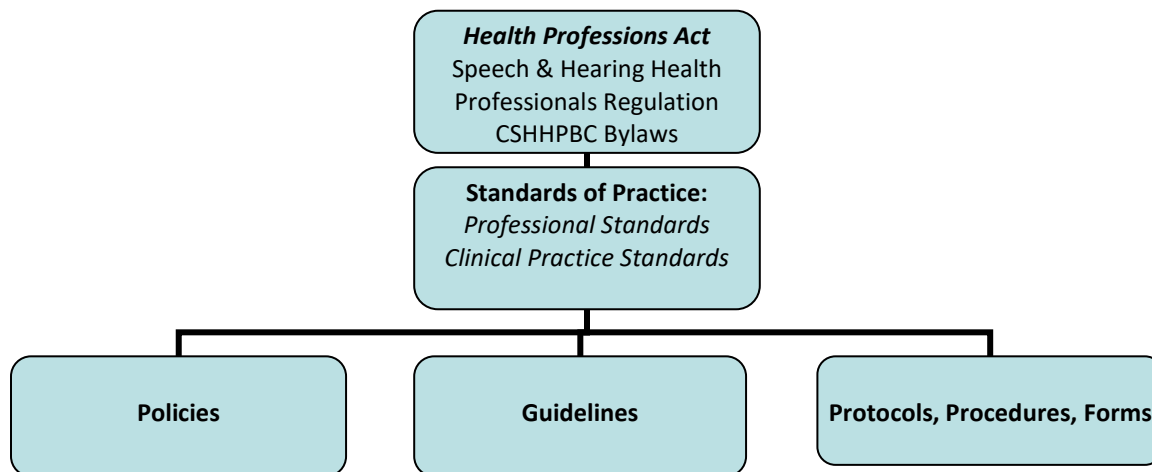


PURPOSE

To comply with the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia (CSHHPBC) is required to develop Standards of Practice for all registrants. The Standards of Practice must be in accordance with the core documents of the CSHHPBC, including: the *HPA*, the Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation, and the CSHHPBC Bylaws. All other clinical decision support tools (i.e., practice guidelines, clinical policies, protocols, procedures, forms, and programs of study) are linked to the applicable standards. The Board of the CSHHPBC, on recommendation from the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) has adopted the following framework for its Standards of Practice.¹



DEFINITIONS

Health Professions Act (HPA)

Umbrella legislation that provides for a common regulatory structure for BC's regulated health professions. The *HPA* empowers the College to regulate the practice of the applicable professions.

Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation

Statements that set out the reserved titles, scope of practice, and restricted activities for Audiology, Hearing Instrument Dispensing, and Speech-Language Pathology, as well as any limits or conditions on practice.

CSHHPBC Bylaws

Ministry of Health-approved bylaws that outline how CSHHPBC conducts its business. The bylaws include administrative, governance, and clinical aspects of the CSHHPBC.

¹ Registrants will be notified of new standards of practice, and associated decision support tools will be posted on the college website: www.cshhpbcc.org

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Expected and achievable levels of performance against which actual performance can be compared. Standards of Practice are the *minimum* level of acceptable performance. The standards are enforceable and are linked to the legislated documents pertaining to the college as well as the core competencies for each profession.

1. Professional Standards

Statements about levels of personal performance that registrants are required to achieve in their practice. Professional Standards:

- reflect the values of CSHHPBC professions;
- clarify expectations of registrants as health care professionals;
- represent the criteria against which practice in BC can be measured by clients, employers, colleagues, other registrants and members of the public.

Examples of Professional Standards include:

- demonstrates professional responsibility and accountability; e.g., a registrant is accountable and takes self-responsibility for actions and conduct;
- applies knowledge, skills and judgment in clinical practice; e.g., a registrant bases practice on current evidence; uses critical thinking and judgment;
- works with others to provide services which are in the client's best interest; e.g., a registrant applies principles of collaborative, inter-professional collaborative practice);
- understands, upholds and promotes the ethical principles in the code of ethics (e.g. a registrant must make the welfare of a client the registrant's primary concern);
- attains the requirements for advanced competency certifications (AC), including the acceptable programs of study for each available certificate.

2. Clinical Practice Standards

Statements designed to guide a registrant's practice with clients and set out levels of performance that registrants are required to achieve when practicing the profession. The Clinical Practice Standards are complementary to the Professional Standards. Specific practice standards apply to clinical aspects of practice and to certain types of diagnoses, disorders or conditions.

Examples of Clinical Practice Standards include:

- clinical direction for specific disorders and diagnostic groups, e.g., standards for various types of assessment;
- infection control requirements;
- documentation and records management.

Clinical Decision Support Tools: (also called 'Decision Support Tools'): represent clinical documents designed to assist registrants in the provision of care and services. They serve to support the Standards of Practice and may contain both required and recommended elements depending on the specific tool. (see Appendix A).

APPENDIX A: Definition -- Standards of Practice and Clinical Decision Support Tools

Item	Description	Key Features	Examples or Types
Standards of Practice	Expected and achievable level of performance against which actual performance can be compared Minimum level of acceptable performance	Required to fulfill legal and professional obligations Standards approved by the Board on the recommendation of the QAC	Professional standards: pertain to the registrant Clinical practice standards: pertain to the registrant's care of clients
Policy	Clinical policies prescribe principles that establish expectations and guide decision-making in the provision of client care or related registrant issues. <i>Does not include policies related to CSHHPBC operations or governance</i>	Required obligations Approved by the Board on the recommendation of the QAC Linked to Standards of Practice	Use of Titles Policy
Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)	Systematic guide to assist registrants in making decisions about their services in specific clinical circumstances Applies to clinical service provision by one or more of the professions under the CSHHPBC May be imported from other agencies (e.g., Canadian Academy of Audiology or Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists)	Link to standards of practice and policy Outline the expected components on a given clinical topic Some flexibility exists based on clinical judgment for individual clients Approved by QAC Agencies may have additional CPGs that apply to inter-professional clinical topics	Documentation and Record Management Auditory Processing Disorders in Children and Adults

Item	Description	Key Features	Examples or Types
Protocol	Set of specific rules or required actions that explicitly direct assessment and/or management of a clinical condition or population occurrence	Link to Standards of Practice, Clinical Policy, Clinical Practice Guidelines Approved by QAC	Standard assessment tool or scale Algorithm or decision tree
Procedure	A process describing the steps required to complete a technique, activity or skill Clinical procedures are usually available in the literature	Link to Standards, Policy, Practice Guidelines and Protocols Approved by QAC	Reporting of Continuing Competency Credits (CCCs)
Form	A basic tool to capture and report data Prescribed forms are referenced in the bylaws and must be filed with the MOH	Link to other decision support tools as applicable Approved by QAC Prescribed forms are approved by the board and filed with the MOH	Form for reporting CCCs
Program of Study	A specific tool that outlines the pre-requisites and all requirements for an advanced certificate	Link to part 10 in the bylaws Approved by QAC Reviewed on a schedule or when needed	Certificates A-K