



Advanced Practice

STANDARD

Registrants of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (CSSHPBC) are expected to provide competent, safe and ethical care to clients; in order to be registered to practice, registrants must have attained the minimum entry to practice requirements for registration. Advanced practice refers to different areas of practice that require education, knowledge, skills and clinical judgment that exceed the foundational practice requirements. In addition to the standard of practice and clinical practice guideline involving advanced practice, registrants must ensure that they do not provide services that they are not competent to provide (see CSHHPBC Code of Ethics).

Advanced practice in health care is often used as a general umbrella term that denotes an advanced level of clinical practice that maximizes the use of educational preparation, in-depth knowledge and expertise in meeting the health needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and populations. According to the Canadian Nurses Association (2008), advanced practice involves “analyzing and synthesizing knowledge; understanding, interpreting and applying theory and research; and developing and advancing knowledge of the profession as a whole” (p. 10).

Advanced practices have and continue to evolve because of the complex nature of health care and the clients CSSHPBC serves. Increasing patient acuity and complexity, improved technology and new techniques in diagnostics and interventions all contribute to the development of advanced practices. The existing advanced practices are not static but ever changing and expanding and must be within the established scope of practice of a given profession.

The advanced practices across a profession are driven and influenced by multiple factors, including regulatory requirements, educational advancements, patient/client needs, general healthcare needs and technological change. These practices apply to a profession across the spectrum of employment, including but not limited to health regions, agencies, educational institutions, and private practices and companies. Therefore, advanced practices are not driven by a specific collective agreement or employment contract; rather, collective agreements and employment contracts need to consider the implications of advanced practices for appropriate qualifications and required credentials for specific positions and roles.

Categories of Advanced Practice in CSHHPBC

CSSHPBC categorizes advanced practice into three distinct groups:

- Group 1 – Certified Advanced Practice
- Group 2 – Advanced Degree Practice
- Group 3 – Specialized Areas of Practice



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Group 1 – Certified Advanced Practice

Practices requiring advanced certification are those clinical practices that are non-entry level and which have certification required by law (i.e., regulation and or bylaws). Health care regulation and subsequent bylaws of CSHHPBC mandate advanced certifications to ensure that practices that are considered high risk are performed competently. Certification ensures a broad, advanced body of knowledge that is important to the overall competencies required. Certified advanced practices may relate to one or more specified restricted activities that are granted to the profession, and certification requirements apply even if it is likely that not all clients will require the performance of the restricted activity.

CSHHPBC specifies how the certified advanced practices may be denoted in a professional's title (see Use of Titles QA Policy QA-01).

Restrictions on Service Provision Involving Certified Advanced Practices

Certified advanced practices may not be delegated to non-certified health professionals, except in the case of a CSHHPBC registrant who is in training for the certificate (see Acceptable Programs of Study for Advanced Certification QA Policy QA-04).

Registrants who do not hold a valid certificate must not practice directly with clients, even for demonstration or learning purposes, in the area requiring an advanced certificate.

Temporary registrants who do not hold a valid certificate must have an equivalency determined by the Quality Assurance Committee of CSHHPBC in order to practice directly with clients in the certified advanced practice area.

Registrants of CSHHPBC who are in training for an advanced certificate must be under the appropriate supervision of a qualified supervisor. Requirements for each advanced certificate and appropriate supervision levels may be found in the Acceptable Programs of Study Forms (A-J). Levels of supervision while in training can be found in Definitions and Application of Supervision by Registrants QA Policy QA-06. . At present, there is no provision for registrants of CSHHPBC to train other regulated health professionals in an advanced competency area that has been designated by regulation to registrants of CSHHPBC. The CSHHPBC programs of study for advanced certification are profession-specific and the prerequisites and required body of knowledge are not transferrable to other professions.

See Appendix A for the current certified advanced practices and associated restricted activities and bylaw references for CSHHPBC registrants.

Group 2 – Advanced Degree Practice

Registrants may be required to hold a degree, above entry level, for specific roles or positions (e.g., teaching, research). This ensures advanced knowledge over and above the entry level registration requirements. Examples of advanced degrees may include AudD or PhD.



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Group 3 – Specialized Areas of Practice

Specialized areas of practice refer to practice in a particular role, population or area of practice that is not necessarily rooted in legislation. There is advanced training, education and often clinical experience required, and, in many instances, there is certification or registration available to those who complete the training based on accepted national and international industry standards. These types of advanced practitioners are often referred to as clinical or technical experts and, in some cases, clinical specialist. These areas of practice denote a level of expertise in the specified practice that is above entry level. CSHHPBC may require specific requirements for specialized areas of practice and may specify appropriate designations (e.g., clinical specialist).

SCOPE

All active, conditional active and temporary CSHHPBC registrants

REFERENCES

Canadian Nurses Association. (2008). *Advanced nursing practice: A national framework*. Retrieved from www.cna-aiic.ca/

RELATED CSHHPBC DOCUMENTS

QA Policy QA - 04 - Acceptable Programs of Study for Advanced Competency
Acceptable Program of Study for Advanced Certificates A to J.
Code of Ethics
QA Policy QA - 06 - Definitions and Applications of Supervision by Registrants
Standards of Practice Framework
QA Policy QA - 01 - Use of Titles



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APPENDIX A: CERTIFIED ADVANCED PRACTICE BYLAW AND REGULATION REFERENCES

Profession and Certificate	Applicable Restricted Activities Subject to Advanced Certification in the Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation
Audiology	
Certificate A: Vestibular Assessment and Management	5(1)d. put into the external ear canal, up to the eardrum and for the purposes of assessment of vestibular system dysfunction, water that is under pressure
Certificate B: Cochlear Implant Management	Bylaw section 102-106
Hearing Instrument Dispensing	
Certificate D: Hearing Instrument Dispensing Services to Children 12-16 years	5(2)e. prescribe a wearable hearing instrument 5(2)f. dispense of fit a wearable hearing instrument
Audiology and Hearing Instrument Dispensing	
Certificate C: Cerumen Management	2a.put an instrument or device or finger into the external ear canal, up to the eardrum 2b. put into the external ear canal up to the eardrum and or the purposes of cerumen management air that is under pressure 2c. put into the external ear canal, up to the eardrum and for the purpose of cerumen management, water that is under pressure
Speech-Language Pathology	
Certificate E: Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of Voice Disorders	5(3)c. put an instrument or a device beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow, for the purposes of assessing and managing communication and swallowing disorders 5(3)d. put an instrument or a device or finger beyond the pharynx, for the purposes of assessing and managing voice disorders and voice restoration 5(3)g. administering a topical anesthetic



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Profession and Certificate	Applicable Restricted Activities Subject to Advanced Certification in the Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation
Certificate F: Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation and Management of Swallowing Disorders	5(3)c. put an instrument or a device beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow, for the purposes of assessing and managing communication and swallowing disorders 5(3)g. administering a topical anesthetic
Certificate G. Voice Restoration – Voice Prostheses	5(3)c 5(3)e. put an instrument or a device into an artificial opening in the body, for the purposes of assessing and managing voice disorders and voice restoration 5(3)g
Certificate H: Talking Tracheostomy Tubes and Speaking Valves –Swallowing and/or Voice Restoration	5(3)c-e
Certificate I: Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Swallowing Disorders in Adults	5(3)c-e may apply Bylaw sections 129-130
Certificate J: Videofluoroscopic Assessment of Swallowing Disorders in Paediatrics	5(3)c-e may apply Bylaw section 131