



Ear Impressions

PURPOSE

To ensure that CSHHPBC registrants (or their delegates) involved in making ear impressions do so in a safe, ethical and infection-controlled manner. The goal is to ensure the best possible experience for the client with a useable ear impression at the conclusion of the process.

SCOPE

All registered audiologists, registered hearing instrument practitioners and any communication health assistants (who are under delegation and supervision of a registrant) providing ear impression-making services for any purpose

In situations where registrants are delegating this service to qualified communication health assistants (CHA), it is the registrant's responsibility to ensure that the CHA is competent to conduct the procedure.

NOTE: In this document, registrant refers to audiologists, hearing instrument practitioners and any communication health assistants under the supervision of a qualified registrant. Client refers to all patients, clients or long-term care residents.

POLICY

Registrants are ethically responsible to ensure that they are competent to make ear impressions and that their clients are safe during the procedure. Professional judgment, taking into account the clinical environment and the individual client, must be considered when deviating from established protocol (PROT-QA-04 Ear Impressions).

According to the CSHHPBC Bylaws, registrants can make earmold impressions for clients of all ages. Where the registrant does not feel competent to manage the risks or is unfamiliar with the client population or specific condition(s), the client should be referred to a more experienced registrant to make the impression.

In the event of a chronic condition or an immediate client need, and when the client must have an ear impression taken for the purpose of treatment, medical clearance must be obtained prior to initiating the process.

Consultation should occur in any case where the registrant believes that medical supervision and/or intervention may be required during the impression making process.

If a registrant has a CHA, who is not routinely successful in making ear impressions, then the registrant may stop the delegation to the CHA until such time as remedial actions have been taken so that the CHA can resume making ear impressions independently.

When making ear impressions, registrants are required to be familiar with and follow the requirements of the QA protocol Ear Impressions (PROT-QA-04).



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CSHHPBC RELATED DOCUMENTS

Ear Impressions (PROT-QA-04)

Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Audiologists (CPG-04)

Use of Communication health assistants (SOP-PRAC-04)