

Advanced Practice

DEFINITIONS

- **“Advanced practice”** means 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).
- **“Practice”** means any professional role, whether remunerated or not, in which the registrant uses their knowledge, skills and abilities as an audiologist, hearing instrument practitioner and/or speech-language pathologist. Practicing the profession includes the provision of clinical care as well as working in management, administration, leadership, education, research, advisory, regulatory and policy development roles and any other roles that use professional skills and impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession (Adapted from Medical Board of Australia, Registration standard, October 2016).

SCOPE

- Active Registrants of CSHHPBC (including Registrants holding an Advanced Certificate).
- Temporary and Conditional Active Registrants of CSHHPBC.

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. To be registered to practice, registrants must have attained the minimum entry to practice requirements for registration.
- Refers to 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
- Advanced practices have and will 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 each 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.

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Categories of Advanced Practice in CSHHPBC

CSHHPBC categorizes advanced practice into three distinct groups:

- Group 1 – Advanced Certification;
- Group 2 – Advanced Degrees;
- Group 3 – Areas of Practice with Conditions

Group 1 – Advanced Certification

- 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 the bylaws of CSHHPBC mandate advanced certifications to ensure that practices that are considered high risk are performed safely and competently. Advanced certification ensures a broad, advanced body of knowledge that is important to the overall competencies required. Advanced certifications 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 advanced certificates may be denoted in a professional's title (POL-QA-01).

Limits on Service Provision Involving Advanced Certifications

- Advanced certification practice must not be delegated to non-certified health professionals, except in the case of a CSHHPBC registrant who is in training for the certificate (POL-QA-04).
- Registrants who do not hold a valid certificate must not practice with clients, or for demonstration, teaching 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 & Professional Practice Committee of CSHHPBC to practice in the certified practice area.
- Registrants of CSHHPBC, who are in training for an advanced certificate, must be under the appropriate supervision of a qualified supervisor(s). Requirements for each advanced certificate and appropriate supervision levels may be found in the Acceptable Programs of Study Forms (A-K). Levels of supervision while in training can be found in Definitions and Application of Supervision by Registrants (POL-QA-06).
- At present, there is no provision for registrants of CSHHPBC to train other regulated health professionals in an advanced certification area that has been designated by regulation to registrants of CSHHPBC. The CSHHPBC programs of study for advanced certification are profession-specific and the pre-requisites and required body of knowledge are not transferrable to other professions.

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 include a doctorate in Audiology or a PhD.

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Group 3 – Areas of Practice with Conditions

- CSHHPBC has the authority to establish standards of practice, with conditions on practice for registrants. Some areas of practice may require specific training, education and clinical experience before they can be performed safely and competently. These practices do not necessarily involve restricted activities. In some instances, there may be a certification or registration available to those who complete the training based on accepted national and international industry standards. These areas of practice denote a level of expertise in the specified practice that is above entry level.

REFERENCES

Canadian Nurses Association. (2008). [*Advanced nursing practice: A national framework*](#).

RELATED CSHHPBC DOCUMENTS

Acceptable Programs of Study for Advanced Certification (POL-QA-04)

Acceptable Programs of Study for Advanced Certification (POL-QA-04 ~ A to K)

Registrant Code of Ethics (Core-05)

Definitions and Applications of Supervision by Registrants (POL-QA-06)

Unique and Shared Scope of Practice (SOP-PROF 03)

Attaining and Maintaining Practice Competency (SOP-PROF-02)

Professional Accountability and Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05)