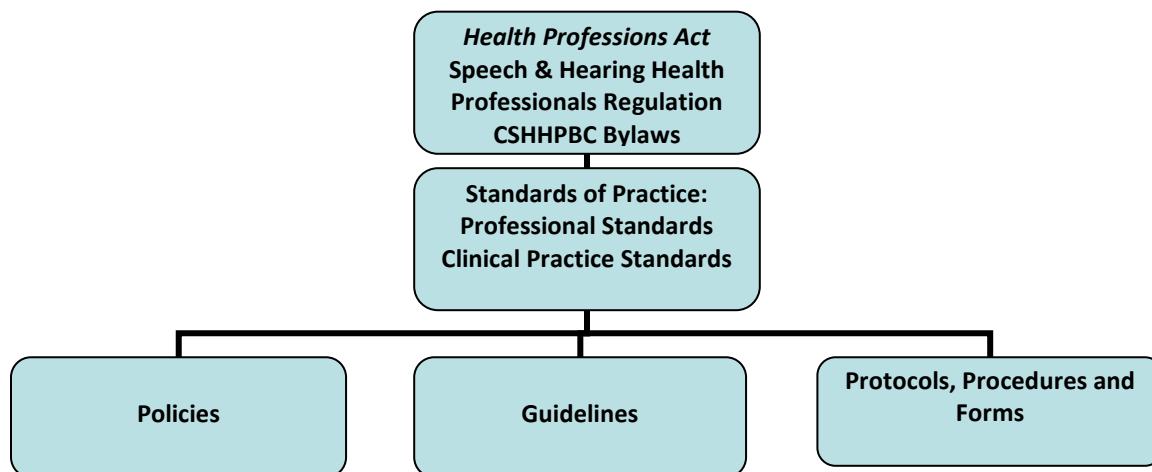


## PURPOSE

Pursuant to the *Health Professions Act*, 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 *Health Professions Act*, 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 the recommendation of the Quality Assurance & Professional Practice (QAPP) Committee, has adopted the following framework for its Standards of Practice.<sup>1</sup>



## DEFINITIONS

**“Act”** means the *Health Professions Act* of British Columbia -- umbrella legislation that provides for a common regulatory structure for BC’s regulated health professions. The Act empowers the College to regulate the practice of the applicable professions.

**“Regulation”** means the Speech and Hearing Health Professionals Regulation – secondary legislation that set out the reserved titles, scope of practice, and restricted activities for the professions of audiology, hearing instrument dispensing, and speech-language pathology, as well as any limits or conditions on practice.

<sup>1</sup> Registrants will be notified of new standards of practice, and associated decision support tools will be posted on the CSHHPBC website: [www.cshhpbc.org](http://www.cshhpbc.org)



**“Bylaws”** means the CSHHPBC Bylaws -- Ministry of Health-approved secondary legislation that outlines how CSHHPBC conducts its business. The bylaws include administrative, governance, and clinical aspects of the CSHHPBC.

**“Standards of Practice”** means 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”** means 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;
- represents 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”** means 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 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”** means 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. The definitions of these tools are shown in Appendix A.

## APPENDIX A: Standards of Practice and Clinical Decision Support Tool Definitions

Item	Description	Key Features	Examples or Types
<b>Standards of Practice (SOP)</b>	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
<b>Policy (POL)</b>	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 QAPP Committee  Linked to Standards of Practice	Use of Titles Policy
<b>Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG)</b>	Systematic guide to assist registrants in making decisions about their services in specific clinical circumstances  Applies to clinical service provision by one or all the professions under the CSHHPBC May be imported from other	Link to standards of practice and policy  Outline the expected/required components on a given clinical topic  Some flexibility exists based on clinical judgment for individual	Documentation and Record Management  Auditory Processing Disorders in Children and Adults  Infection control



	agencies, e.g., Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA) or Speech & Audiology Canada (SAC)	clients  Approved by QAPP Committee  Agencies may have additional CPGs that apply to inter-professional clinical topics	
<b>Protocol (PROT)</b>	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 QAPP Committee	Standard assessment tool or scale  Algorithm or decision tree
<b>Procedure (PROC)</b>	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 QAPP Committee	Reporting of Continuing Competency Credits (CCCs)
<b>Form</b>	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 QAPP Committee  Prescribed forms are approved by the board and filed with the MOH	Form for reporting CCCs
<b>Program of Study (POS)</b>	A specific tool that outlines the pre-requisites and all requirements for an advanced certificate	Link to Part 10 in the CSHHPBC Bylaws  Approved by QAPP Committee  Reviewed on a schedule or when needed	Advanced Certificates A~K