



Alberta College of
Speech-Language Pathologists
and Audiologists

Position Statement

Recording Currency Hours During Pandemic-Related Redeployment

Published January 2021



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Position Statement: *Sets out the official position or stand of “the College” on an issue or matter that is significant to the professions of speech-language pathology and/or audiology, and to outside agencies or groups.*

Position

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and Audiologists provide professional services regulated under the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*. Regardless of their practice setting, SLPs and Audiologists are regulated health professionals and as such they have an obligation to meet professional requirements stated within the *HPA*, the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Profession Regulation (SLPAPR)*, ACSLPA’s *Code of Ethics* and ACSLPA’s *Standards of Practice*.

One of the legislated requirements of the *SLPAPR* is that practicing members must have practiced at least 1250 hours within a 5-year period to renew their practice permit. This requirement exists as one measure for ensuring that practitioners remain current and competent to practice.

Many regulated ACSLPA members have been redeployed as part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has raised questions about whether practice hours can be counted for this work in 2021 and possibly beyond.

Currency Hours Considerations

For the purposes of this statement, redeployment should be understood to be employment (either new or continuing) within the public health system to perform activities that are non-traditional for SLPs and Audiologists in support of the public health response to COVID-19. These activities include but are not limited to nasopharyngeal swabbing, throat swabbing, contact tracing, health screening, assisting clients/patients with activities of daily living, supporting immunization clinics, or other related healthcare functions.

ACSLPA’s position is that regulated members can fulfill these roles and, depending on the duties they are asked to perform, will make use of many of the competencies they are expected to hold and maintain throughout their careers-communication, collaboration, advocacy, and professionalism. Nasopharyngeal swabbing is a restricted activity that SLPs are authorized to perform and, as such, it is a clinical activity that falls within the SLP scope of practice. Some redeployments will call upon fewer SLP or audiologist professional competencies than others, however regulated members will continue to be involved in health care related activities, will be working in association with health care colleagues and peers, and their professional background and knowledge will be incorporated into tasks and duties as the context allows.

Reporting Currency Hours at Renewal (Fall 2021)

Given the above rationale, **for the 2021 registration year, ACSLPA regulated members who are redeployed will be able to count up to 625 currency hours for the year.** Additional time spent in typical SLP or audiology professional/clinical duties will be counted as usual. The number of total hours counted will depend on one's FTE and whether they were also performing typical SLP/audiology work. Because ACSLPA requires only a minimum of 1250 hours of currency over a 5-year period, most regulated members will have sufficient hours even when counting a maximum of 625. If a regulated member's redeployment is heavily weighted in SLP or audiologist related activities (e.g., nasopharyngeal swabbing, feeding with geriatrics) and they would like to have additional hours over and above the 625 considered as part of their currency count, the College can be contacted for further discussion.

As a reminder, ACSLPA's typical currency hours definition is as follows:

Current qualification hours include volunteer or paid hours spent in professional practice activities, including the following:

- Clinical practice (including assessment, intervention, and consulting)
- Administration/management with respect to health service delivery,
- Professional development (including coursework, review of scholarly articles and journals, conferences, webinars, etc.),
- Research,
- Educating students in SLP, audiology or a related field, and/or
- Participation in Council and committee work with an SLP or Audiology Professional body.

Any of the professional practice activities listed here that are accrued as part of doctoral or post-doctoral studies following a qualifying professional degree would also be considered.

Please contact Susan Rafaat at deputyregistrar@acslpa.ca with any questions.