



Alberta College of  
Speech-Language Pathologists  
and Audiologists

# ACSLPA Standards and Guidelines: What Members Need to Know

Changes to Clinical Supervision Standard of Practice and  
Working with Support Personnel Guidelines

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# Today's Learning Objectives

- To obtain an overview of the newly revised *Guideline on Working with Support Personnel* and the accompanying *S of P on Clinical Supervision*
- To consider supervision from a right touch regulatory framework, focusing on the minimization of risk to the client
- To highlight notable changes and rationale for said changes

# Regulation vs. Advocacy

- Role of the college is first and foremost protection of the public-ensuring that the public receives safe, competent, and ethical speech-language pathology and audiology services through the regulation of *individual practitioners*.
- Advocacy for the professions falls outside the regulatory arena

# A Quick Reminder

## ***Standards of Practice:***

Are established measures or norms which define the **minimum level of professional performance** that SLPs and audiologists must demonstrate in their practice.

## ***Guidelines:***

Provide recommendations to regulated members that are deemed to be **acceptable practice within regulatory requirements**. Members are afforded reasonable use of their professional judgment in the application of a guideline.

# In Other Words

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# A Right Touch Regulatory Perspective

Focuses on the minimum regulatory force required to achieve the desired result

Too little-ineffective



Too much-waste of effort

# A Right Touch Regulatory Perspective

- Consider, and minimize, potential hazards, risks, and harms to the client
- In healthcare, harm is physical injury or psychological distress experienced by people through interaction with healthcare practitioners and services.

# Right Touch Framework

Let us consider:

- What types of restrictions are required when SP are providing speech, language and audiology services under the professional's supervision?
- How much is enough? How much is too much?
- How does a professional make good decisions when assigning, monitoring and evaluating assistants?



# Right Touch Framework

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- Context Matters
- Clinical judgment and decision making are important
- Absolutes are imposed only when necessary

# In Other Words

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# Context Matters

The revised guideline addresses supervision in terms of the following considerations:

- Nature of the activity being assigned to SP
- Individual needs of the client
- Competence and confidence of SP
- Relationship between the SP and the supervisor

# Additional Notable Revisions

- Assignment of activities involving interpretation
- Determinations re: amount of direct and indirect supervision required
- Clinically supervising one's employer

# Implementation vs Interpretation

- Refrain from assigning activities to support personnel that involve clinical interpretation **UNLESS a clearly documented algorithm or flowchart is available that essentially provides the interpretation piece as part of the flowchart.**

## Examples

- Admin of screening tools, including discharging the client or referring for appropriate follow up.
- Puretone air conduction threshold measurements

# Amount of Supervision Required

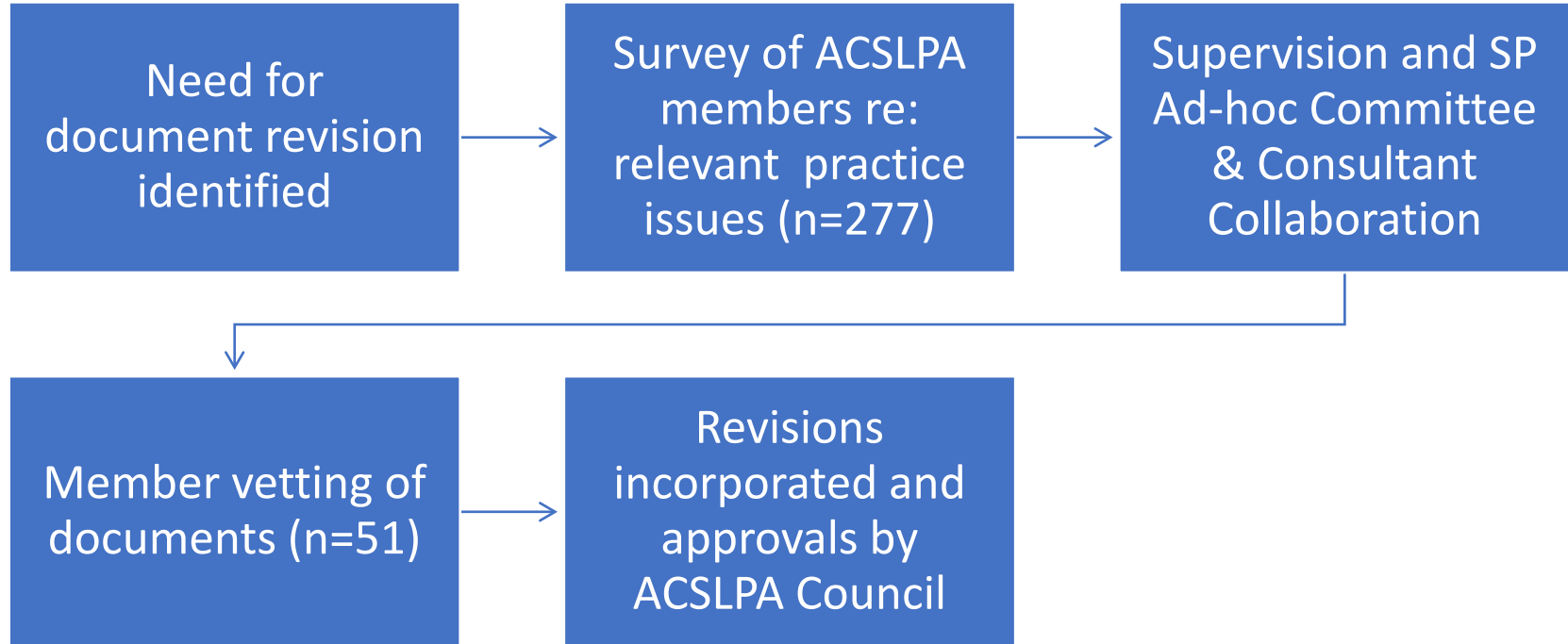
- The regulated member will determine the amount of both direct and/or indirect supervision that is required for SP under one's direction and supervision. The regulated member should have **sound rationale** to support these decisions and should be able to articulate this rationale as required.

# Clinical Supervision of One's Employer

- The regulated member will refrain from entering into an employment agreement whereby they clinically supervise the person who employs them



# Document Review Process





# Additional Asides

- User friendly format with easy access to links and resources embedded in the document
- Appendices that can be easily accessed as stand alone documents to be shared with colleagues, client and administrators
- Revised S of P indicators are embedded directly within the guideline so it's easy to see how they work with and complement the guideline

## As We Transition. . . .

- Our current Standard on Clinical Supervision (2015) remains in place until the external stakeholder review of the revised standard has been completed by government.
- We encourage members to become familiar with the new Standard and to begin incorporating elements of this standard into practice where possible.
- The revised guideline has been approved by Council and is now in place.

# Supplemental Resources

- Links and appendices within the guideline
- Supplemental article

*Why Does Supervision of Support Personnel Matter?*

# Questions?

