

| Policy Category: | Policy Title: | Policy #: |
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| Quality Assurance & Professional Practice | Communication Health Assistants (Titles & Credentials) | POL-QA-10 |
| Regulation Bylaw Reference: | | HPA Reference: |
| Bylaws: Part 12 | | |
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DEFINITIONS

“Early Hearing Program Screener” means a BC Early Hearing Program (BCEHP) Screener. These screeners (Communication Health Assistants) are specifically trained by the BCEHP Program to provide newborn hearing screening. CHAs with broad speech and hearing training and education may also be trained by the BCEHP as an Early Hearing Program Screener. Conversely, there are some EHP screeners who are only qualified to perform EHP screenings. Therefore, some EHP screeners may use occupational titles (e.g., Audiometric Technician). Clinical oversight is by a Registered Audiologist (RAUD).

“Industrial Audiometric Technician (IAT)” is an occupational title for individuals with specific training for the WorkSafe BC hearing conservation program. They are non-registrant, health care providers who have autonomous practice for their WorkSafe BC role, and they are not authorized to perform any restricted activities. They receive training in both the theory and hands-on skills required to conduct hearing tests on noise-exposed workers in industry, counsel workers on the results of their hearing tests, advise workers about hearing protection and administer hearing conservation programs in industry. They must be authorized and certified by WorkSafe BC to work as an IAT in British Columbia.

“Occupational or Job Title” means a specific job title provided by an employer, including but not limited to, speech assistant, speech and hearing assistant, hearing assistant, early hearing program screener, hearing technician, audiometric technician, or communicative disorders assistant.

“School Hearing Screener” means a CHA who is specifically trained to provide individual or mass hearing screening in the schools. Their training and competency are overseen by a Registered Audiologist (RAUD) or Registered Speech-Language Pathologist (RSLP), as applicable. They may or may not have training in other aspects of speech and hearing services.

PURPOSE

To outline the titles and abbreviations of a title that can be used by Communication Health Assistants (CHA), who support audiology, hearing instrument dispensing, and/or speech-language pathology;

To outline the permissible areas of support.

To outline the format for indicating membership(s) and credentials issued by an agency, association or program other than the College.

SCOPE

All CSHBC registrants who work with Communication Health Assistants (CHA).

All CHAs who provide clinical audiology, hearing instrument dispensing, and/or speech-language pathology services.

POLICY

1. Use of Titles

In accordance with Part 12 of the CSHBC Bylaws, non-registrants who are qualified to work with audiologists, hearing instrument practitioners, and/or speech-language pathologists and are referred to as “Communication Health Assistants (CHAs)”.

Registrants must ensure that their qualified CHAs utilize an occupational title commensurate with their training, education and experience. Those occupational titles listed in the definitions include, but are not limited to:

- Audiometric Technician;
- Speech-Language Pathology Assistant;
- Speech and Hearing Assistant;
- Hearing Assistant;
- Communicative Disorders Assistant;
- Early Hearing Program Screeners.

Other occupational titles such as “Education Assistant”, “Behavioural Interventionist”, or “Rehabilitation Assistant” are not self-explanatory titles in respect of speech and hearing services. Registrants must ensure that clients/families understand which profession and services their staff are qualified in and are supporting, while under the registrant’s supervision. Some CHAs may have more than one title and registrants must be clear on which title is being used for which services. For example, Hearing Screeners, who only support the profession of audiology or speech-language pathology while performing school screenings, must make that clear to clients/families. In other instances, a CHA may have more than one role (e.g., Early Hearing Program Screener and Audiometric Technician). It is acceptable to indicate to clients when a CHA has multiple qualifications and roles.

Industrial Audiometric Technicians (IATs) do not always have training to perform hearing protection-related ear impressions and should indicate that they are qualified to perform this function if they are trained, and it is delegated to them by a Registered Audiologist. This delegated activity if not part of their IAT role under WorkSafe BC.

2. Communication Health Assistant Students

Registrants may accept and supervise students from formal CHA programs including those entitled “Communicative Disorders Assistant program” and “Speech and Language Assistant program”. During

any student practicum placements, prior to graduation, registrants must ensure that their students must use “student” after their title. For example,

NAME, Speech Assistant, (Student)

3. Additional Credentials (Agency and Association Membership and Registration)

Memberships issued by an agency, professional association, or program other than the College, may be noted below the CHA’s name and occupational title. For example,

**NAME, Education/degree, Occupational Title (e.g. Communicative Disorders Assistant),
Associate Member of SAC
Registered with CDAAC**

4. Areas of Practice Support

In clinical contexts, especially with clients, families and other health professionals, registrants must ensure that their CHA staff clearly state for which profession(s) they are providing services. For example,

“My name is [name], and I am here to assist you with your hearing aid.”

For issues regarding documentation and consent refer to the CSHBC *Documentation & Records Management* standard (SOP-PRAC-01) and clinical practice guideline (CPG-04).

REFERENCES

[BC Early Hearing Program](#)

[Communicative Disorders Assistants in Canada: www.cdaac.ca](#)

Guidelines for Communication Health Assistants (2016): [Speech-Language & Audiology Canada](#)

Hearing Loss Prevention: [WorkSafeBC](#)

CSHBC RELATED DOCUMENTS

Documentation & Records Management (CPG-04)

Documentation & Records Management (SOP-PRAC-01)

Communication Health Assistants (Delegation & Assignment) (SOP-PRAC-04)