

Current SLPA Regulations Related to SLPA Supervision and Scope of Responsibilities

16 CCR § 1399.170 Definitions.

As used in this article:

(a) "Accountability" means being legally responsible and answerable for actions and inactions of self or others during the performance of a task by the speech-language pathology assistant.

(b) "Client" shall have the same meaning and effect as the term "patient" and "student," when referring to services provided in a school setting, for purposes of interpreting the provisions in this Article.

(c) "Direct supervision" means on-site observation and guidance by the supervising speech-language pathologist while a clinical activity is performed by the speech-language pathology assistant. Direct supervision performed by the supervising speech-language pathologist may include, but is not limited to, the following: observation of a portion of the screening or treatment procedures performed by the speech-language pathology assistant, coaching the speech-language pathology assistant, and modeling for the assistant.

(d) "Immediate supervision" means the supervising speech-language pathologist is physically present during services provided to the client by the speech-language pathology assistant.

(e) "Indirect supervision" means the supervising speech-language pathologist is not at the same facility or in close proximity to the speech-language pathology assistant, but is available to provide supervision by electronic means. Indirect supervision activities performed by the supervising speech-language pathologist may include, but are not limited to, demonstration, record review, review and evaluation of audio or video-taped sessions, interactive television, and supervisory conferences that may be conducted by telephone or electronic mail.

(f) "Medically fragile" is the term used to describe a client that is acutely ill and in an unstable condition and if treated by a speech-language pathology assistant, immediate supervision by a speech-language pathologist is required.

(g) "Screening" is a pass-fail procedure to identify, without interpretation, clients who may require further assessment following specified screening protocols developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

(h) "Supervision" for the purposes of this article, means the provision of direction and evaluation of the tasks assigned to a speech-language pathology assistant. Methods for providing supervision include direct supervision, immediate supervision, and indirect supervision.

(i) "Support personnel" means individuals who, following academic and/or on-the-job training, perform tasks as prescribed, directed and supervised by a speech-language pathologist. There are different levels of support personnel based on training and scope of responsibilities.

16 CCR § 1399.170.2 Types of Supervision Required for Duties Performed by a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

(a) Duties performed by the speech-language pathology assistant that require immediate supervision may include, but are not limited to, any direct client activity involving medically fragile patients. In such instances, the speech-language pathology assistant shall act only under the direction of the supervisor.

(b) Duties performed by the speech-language pathology assistant that require direct supervision may include, but are not limited to, any new screening or treatment activity that the assistant has been trained to perform by the supervisor, but has not yet been performed by the speech-language pathology assistant in direct client care.

(c) Duties performed by the speech-language pathology assistant that require indirect supervision may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Screening or treatment activities where the supervisor has previously given instructions as to how to perform the task, has observed the assistant in the conduct of these activities, and is satisfied that the activities can be competently performed by the speech-language pathology assistant, i.e., repetitive drill exercises, generalization or carryover activities;
- (2) Clerical tasks such as record keeping, materials preparation, scheduling, equipment maintenance; and,
- (3) Other non-client care activities.

16 CCR § 1399.170.3 Activities, Duties, and Functions Outside the Scope of Responsibilities of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant.

A speech-language pathology assistant may not conduct evaluations, interpret data, alter treatment plans, or perform any task without the express knowledge and approval of a supervising speech-language pathologist. The speech-language pathology assistant may not perform any of the following functions:

- (a) Participate in parent conferences, case conferences, or inter-disciplinary team conferences without the supervising speech-language pathologist or another speech-language pathologist being present;
- (b) Provide counseling or advice to a client or a client's parent or guardian which is beyond the scope of the client's treatment;
- (c) Sign any documents in lieu of the supervising speech-language pathologist, i.e., treatment plans, client reimbursement forms, or formal reports;
- (d) Discharge clients from services;
- (e) Make referrals for additional services;
- (f) Unless required by law, disclose confidential information either orally or in writing to anyone not designated by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- (g) Represent himself or herself as a speech-language pathologist; and,
- (h) Perform procedures that require a high level of clinical acumen and technical skill, i.e., vocal tract prosthesis shaping or fitting, vocal tract imaging, and oropharyngeal swallow therapy with bolus material.