

**Allied Health Professionals Council (Speech and Language Therapist)
Regulations 2022**

GN No. 117 of 2022

Government Gazette of Mauritius No. 76 of 31 May 2022

THE ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL ACT

**Regulations made by the Minister, after consultation with the Allied
Health Professionals Council, under section 39 of the Allied
Health Professionals Council Act**

- 1.** These regulations may be cited as the **Allied Health Professionals Council (Speech and Language Therapist) Regulations 2022**.

- 2.** In these regulations –

“Act” means the Allied Health Professionals Council Act.

- 3.** For the purpose of section 5(d) of the Act, the Code of Practice for Speech and Language Therapist shall be the Code set out in the Schedule.

- 4.** Every speech and language therapist shall comply with the Code of Practice.

- 5.** (1) Where a speech and language therapist fails to comply with the Code of Practice, the Council, may, by notice in writing served on him, require him to comply with the Code of Practice.

(2) A speech and language therapist who fails to comply with the Code of Practice may be called by the Council to explain his non-compliance with the Code of Practice.

- 6.** These regulations shall come into operation on 1 June 2022.

Made by the Minister, after consultation with the Allied Health Professionals Council, on 16 May 2022.

SCHEDULE

[Regulation 3]

CODE OF PRACTICE

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

PART I – GLOSSARY

Speech and language therapy provides treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing.

1. Interpretation

“client” –

- (a) means the individual receiving professional services and in specific cases when the individual is not capable, the legal guardian or legal representative shall stand as the client; and
- (b) includes family members and caregivers with the consent of the represented individual.

“communication disorder” means any disorder and/or delay within the scope of practice for a speech language pathologist including but not limited to the following: speech-language disorders, hearing impairments, swallowing, reading and writing and cognitive disorders, voice disorders. Fluency disorders, articulation, neurological disorders and pervasive disorders;

“informed consent” means a client approval or acknowledgment to receive the proposed service after a process of decision making leading to an informed choice. Valid consent may be either verbal or written unless otherwise required. Sufficient information pertaining to risks, benefits, assessment and management is provided to the client, as well as other proposed alternatives and the client understands this information;

“professional competence” means the continuous ability potential to integrate and apply, the knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgments to provide effective and ethical speech language pathology services within a designated field;

“services” means direct, indirect and follow-up activities;

“speech therapy assistant” means an individual who assists the speech therapist and audiologist in diagnosing, assessing and providing therapeutic treatment for disorders of speech, language and hearing;

“supportive personnel” –

- (a) means individuals providing services under the direct supervision of a speech and language therapist;
- (b) includes teachers, volunteers and family members involved on the client management.

PART II – CODE OF ETHICS

2. Background

(1) It is vital for speech language therapists to fully abide by the code of ethics, meeting the highest professional standards of integrity and responsibility.

(2) The core of all ethical practices and decision making shall hold the underlying values of the Code of Ethics. The code of ethics shall provide guidance to practice, to promote professionally satisfactory behaviour in the practice.

3. Registrant speech and language therapists will hold these fundamental values

(1) Speech and language therapists recognize and adhere to principles and truth, accountability, objectivity and accuracy in their practice and respect the unique dignity of each individual.

(2) Speech and Language therapists attach significant importance to the well-being of their clients. Clients’ interests, aims and opinions shall preside over personal

interests of the professional. Mutual respect, compassion and confidentiality shall be present between client, and professional, as well between professionals. Cultural competence shall be respected by all professionals during service delivery.

(3) Speech and Language therapists do not hold discrimination on the basis of religion, gender, marital status, age, disability, beliefs and socioeconomic status.

(4) Speech and language therapists seek to promote the quality and provision of their professional competence through public awareness. Speech and Language therapists support and promote their profession by participating in and accepting the self-regulation of their profession.

4. High standards and continuing competency

(1) Speech and language therapists practice within their scope of competence and seek to promote and maintain their professional skills through continuing professional development (CPD).

(2) Speech and Language therapists strive to provide professional services and information supported by current scientific and professional research through –

- (a) multidisciplinary meetings;
- (b) workshops;
- (c) training programs;
- (d) sharing of resources;
- (e) online materials; and
- (f) research.

PART III – STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

Speech and Language therapists should interpret the standards as defined with the terms below

5. Information

(1) Speech and Language therapists shall –

- (a) provide information to the client regarding the nature of, services for, and treatment options, fees for services, for the client's communication disorder;
- (b) ensure that information provided to the client is accurate, truthful and is understood by the client.

(2) Speech and Language therapists do not guarantee the result of a therapeutic procedure or of prescribed devices or therapies unless this can be reasonably expected.

6. Professional Competence

Speech and Language therapists shall –

- (a) provide services within the speech and language therapy scope of practice or within their individual field of practice;
- (b) engage only in the provision of services that fall within their professional competence, considering their level of education, training, and recent experience;
- (c) make sure that our clients receive appropriate referrals so as to enable them to receive comprehensive diagnosis and treatment;
- (d) keep current and accurate documentation

7. Continuing Professional Development

Speech and language therapists shall –

- (a) aim to maintain and enhance their professional competence throughout their careers; and

- (b) initiate education in those subject areas in which their knowledge, practice and experience is limited.

8. Incapacity

Speech and Language therapists whose services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health related conditions that may affect their judgement or performance shall withdraw from the affected areas of practice and seek professional assistance where appropriate.

9. Discrimination and harassment

(1) Speech and Language therapists shall not discriminate of race, gender, religion, or disability in their professional relationships within their colleagues and clients.

(2) Speech and Language therapists have the right to limit their practice to certain areas of professional competence or interest.

(3) Speech and Language therapists shall not initiate or engage in harassment activities with clients or colleagues.

(4) Speech and Language therapists shall not be disrespectful of their colleagues nor denigrating of their colleagues work. In cases of disagreement on therapy management, therapists should maintain close collaboration with each other, and discuss possible therapy techniques.

(5) Speech and Language therapists shall not denigrate or criticize their colleagues work in front of parents or patients in common cases.

10. Client relationships

Speech and Language therapists shall ensure that respect of clients is maintained, and that exploitation of relationships should not occur for emotional, sexual or financial gain.

11. Confidentiality

(1) Speech and Language therapists shall treat any information received in the workplace as confidential but can shall freely share knowledge and clinical practice within colleagues while maintaining client confidentiality.

(2) Speech and Language therapists cannot disclose information about our clients except in the following cases –

- (a) if there is written consent from the patient or his legal representative;
- (b) when it is necessary to communicate, in the interest of the patient information to one of his relatives; or
- (c) where there is knowledge of abuse towards a minor.

12. Safety and health

Speech and Language therapists shall take every precaution to avoid injury to the client, our colleagues and members of the public. This includes following applicable health and safety practices and ensuring that equipment is appropriately calibrated in a proper working order.

9. Resources

(1) Speech and Language therapists shall utilize resources that they and the client deem appropriate. This includes recommending and/or making referrals to other persons and agencies whose knowledge and services may contribute to the diagnosis, assessment and/or treatment of clients.

(2) Speech and Language therapists shall assess or provide the necessary services promptly and shall provide the client with information regarding other appropriate sources of assistance to ensure client care is not jeopardized.

10. Exploitation

Speech and Language therapists shall not exploit the client by –

- (a) providing unnecessary or futile services/products where benefit or continued benefit cannot be reasonably expected. This does not preclude a member from providing a period of trial therapy or product trial to determine if benefits could occur;
- (b) guaranteeing the results of services or products directly or by implication. This does not rule out speech and language therapists providing a reasonable statement of prognosis, nor does it rule out manufacturers providing a product guarantee;
- (c) charging a fee that is expensive in relation to the service provided; and
- (d) submitting a false or misleading account or charge for a service rendered or for a product dispensed.

15. Records

Speech and Language therapists shall –

- (a) prepare and maintain adequate records of professional services of products dispensed in a timely fashion; and
- (b) allow access to these records when appropriate authorization is obtained from the client or when required to do so by law.

16. Delegation

(1) Speech and Language therapists are responsible for all professional services they delegate to personnel under their supervision.

(2) Speech and Language therapists shall not misrepresent the credentials of assistants, technicians, students or supportive personnel and shall inform the client of the name and professional credentials of persons providing services.

17. Public statements

(1) When Speech and Language therapists make a public statement, we do not represent that we are speaking on behalf of the profession unless it has been agreed to do so by the representatives of the profession on the Council.

(2) Speech and language therapists shall ensure that any public statements they make regarding their professions are not misleading. Their spoken, written or printed communications shall be true, accurate and clear in representing their qualifications, professional affiliations, education, experience and competence.

18. Advertising

(1) Speech and Language therapists may advertise their professional services.

(2) Speech and Language therapists shall not use advertising in a way that is false, misleads the public, misrepresent the professions, or disparage the skills of other professionals.

19. Business practices

(1) Speech and language therapists shall ensure that their promotion(s), sales and fees for products and/or services for clients are appropriate and fair.

(2) Speech and language therapists shall disclose prior to providing any services or products the fees and charges and billing arrangements that will apply, and obtain the client's consent.

(3) Speech and language therapists cannot accept any financial benefits (commissions or other forms of payment) for referring patients to other professionals.

20. Conflict of interest

Speech and Language therapists shall –

(a) be vigilant in avoiding activities that may be construed as a conflict of interest;

(b) use information wherever appropriate to refer a client to their practice or another colleague's own private practice; and

- (c) ensure the provision of professional services takes priority over personal interests, aims and opinions.
-