

Proposed starting place for rules committee to work on new Rules for SLPA – AFTER LEGISLATION PASSES at state level

16.26.2.18 PARAPROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AS A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ASSISTANT (SLPA):

A. Prerequisite requirements:

(1) Acceptance of a paraprofessional licensee as a speech-language pathology assistant is subject to board approval. Such licensees shall:

(a) certify that he/she is not guilty of any activities listed in Section 61-14B-21 of the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensing Practices Act; and

(b) provide proof of having met educational, supervision, and employment requirements.

(2) It is the responsibility of the SLPA and the supervising speech-language pathologist to insure the distinction between the roles of the speech-language pathology assistant and the speech language pathologist.

B. Educational requirements:

- (1) an associate's degree or certificate in a speech-language pathology assistant program from an accredited college or university OR
- (2) a baccalaureate degree in speech-language pathology or communication disorders from an accredited college or university OR
- (3) a baccalaureate degree in another field with thirty (30) semester hours of credit in speech-language pathology or communication disorders from an accredited college or university ; OR
- (4) enrolled in a master's degree program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders and completes a minimum rate of nine (9) semester hours per year of graduate courses in communication disorders per year and maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA in communication disorders course work and/or master's degree program.; or
 - a. if not accepted into a master's degree program in speech-language pathology or communication disorders, the applicant must be currently enrolled in nine (9) semester hours of graduate courses per year with at least three (3) hours in communication disorders, six (6) hours may be taken in a related field and maintain a minimum of a 3.0 GPA in communication disorders course work and/or master's degree program.; and;
- (5) In addition, the applicant must complete at least 100 clinical hours of supervised field work experience (if not already documented) under the direct supervision of a licensed Speech Language Pathologist licensed by this act as evidenced by documentation, within one year from date of license or the SLPA license will be terminated.

C. Supervision requirements:

(1) Work of the speech-language pathology assistant must be supervised by a speech-language pathologist licensed by this act and who has a minimum of two (2) years experience in the field after completion of the Clinical Fellowship.

(2) A speech-language pathologist may supervise a maximum of two (2) part time or full time licensed SLPAs at one (1) time.

(3) After the 100 clinical hours are achieved, the supervisor is to provide a minimum of 30% supervision including 20% direct and 10% indirect supervision for the first 90 days of employment. After the first 90 days, a minimum of 10% supervision must be direct and 10% indirect supervision. (CHANGED! - make BLUE)

(X). Minimum ongoing supervision must always include documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP to the SLPA for/while working with each student, patient, or client at least every 60 calendar days. (work on wording - requiring that the SLP observe the SLPA once every 60 days for each student they work with)

(4) The supervising speech-language pathologist is expected to appropriately reduce their direct caseload for each assistant they supervise, ensuring the maintenance of high professional standards as stated in the code of ethics.

(5) SLPAs do not carry their own caseload

(6) 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.

a. For SLP who are supervising licensees in their pursuit of 100 clinical hours, the speech-language pathology assistant must be supervised a minimum of 50% of the time. Furthermore, the speech-language pathologist assistant pursuing the 100 clinical hours must be supervised 100% of the time with direct supervision when working with medically fragile students, patients, or clients. The patient/client contact refers to direct supervision of the speech-language pathology assistant student, which is defined as on-site, in-view observation and guidance.

D. Employment requirements:

- (1) Terms of employment must require at least a paraprofessional license as a speech language pathology assistant.
- (2) The role of the speech-language pathology assistant shall be determined in collaboration with the supervising speech-language pathologist (SLP) and the employer.

E. Scope of Practice for Speech Language Pathology Assistant:

- (1) Scope of Practice must be limited to the following:
- (SLPA) (change color)
- (a) Self identify as a Speech Language Pathology Assistant
 - (b) Assist the SLP with speech, language, and/or hearing screenings without clinical interpretation;
 - (c) Follow documented treatment programs and procedures that are planned, selected and/or designed by the supervising SLP;
 - (d) Prepare written daily plans based on the overall intervention plan designed by the supervising SLP;
 - (e) Document student, patient, and client performance (e.g., tallying data for the SLP to use; preparing charts, records, and graphs) and report this information to the supervising SLP;
 - (f) Maintain daily service/delivery treatment notes as required by supervising SLP;
 - (g) Assist the speech-language pathologist during assessment of clients exclusive of administration and/or interpretation;
 - (h) Provide treatment via telepractice to students/patients/clients who are selected by the supervising SLP as appropriate for this service delivery model
 - (i) Assist with clerical duties, such as preparing materials and scheduling activities, perform checks and maintenance of equipment, and assist with departmental operations, as directed by the SLP;
 - (j) Assist in programming and providing instruction in the use of augmentative and alternative communication devices;
 - (k) Participate with the speech-language pathologist in research projects, in-service training, marketing and public relations programs.
 - (l) Share information with patients, families, and staff regarding feeding strategies developed and directed by the SLP. (UP FOR ADDITIONAL discussion)
 - (n) Provide services under SLP supervision in another language for individuals who do not speak English and English-language learners.
 - (o) Present prevention information to individuals and groups known to be at risk for communication disorders and other appropriate groups; promote early identification and early intervention activities.
 - (p) Advocate for individuals and families through community awareness, health literacy, education, and training programs to promote and facilitate access to full participation in communication, including the elimination of societal, cultural, and linguistic barriers.

(r) Advocate at the local, state, and national levels for improved public policies affecting access to services and research funding.

(s) Support the supervising SLP in research projects, in-service training, public relations programs, and marketing programs.

(t) Participate actively in professional organizations.

(2) Employment duties must not include any of the following:

(a) Represent himself or herself as an SLP;

(b) Administer diagnostic tests, formal or informal evaluations, or swallowing screenings/checklist without licensed SLP supervision

(c) Interpret data into diagnostic statements or clinical management strategies or procedures;

(d) Select or discharge clients for services;

(e) Interpret clinical information including data or impressions relative to client performance;

(f) Treat clients without following the individualized treatment plan prepared by the speech-language pathologist and/or without access to supervision;

(g) Write, develop, modify or sign a student's, patient's, or client's treatment plan/IEP/IFSP/, reimbursement form or reports in any way without the supervising SLP;

(h) Refer a client to other professionals or agencies;

(i) Provide client or family counseling;

(j) Develop or determine the swallowing strategies or precautions for patients, family, or staff;

(k) Treat medically fragile students/patients/clients independently;

(l) disclose clinical or confidential information either orally or in writing, to anyone other than the supervising SLP;

(m) Participate in any formal conferences, case conferences, or any interdisciplinary team without the presence of the supervising SLP or other designated SLP

(n) Perform procedures requiring a high level of clinical acumen and technical skill

(o) Interpret results and observations of feeding and swallowing evaluations performed by SLPs

(3) The Speech Language Pathology Assistant must abide by the following:

(a) Self-identify as SLPAs to families, students, patients, clients, staff, and others. This may be done verbally, in writing, and/or with titles on name badges.

(b) Exhibit compliance with The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations, reimbursement requirements, and SLPAs' responsibilities.

F. Documentation required: All applicants for paraprofessional license in speech-language pathology assistant are required to provide the following documentation to the board:

(1) a completed board approved license application form;

(2) the required license application fee; and

(3) a completed board approved verification of education form verifying education and clinical hours (if Applicable) as outlined in 16.26.2.18B.(2)a-d:

[16.26.2.18 NMAC - Rp, 16 NMAC 26.2.15, 2/3/06; A, 11/29/08; A, 6/7/10; A, 1/29/15]

DEFINITIONS:

Direct Supervision of SLPAs means on-site, in-view observation and guidance while a clinical activity is performed by an SLPA.

Speech Language Pathology Assistant

SLPAs are individuals who, following academic course work, clinical practicum, and credentialing, can perform tasks prescribed, directed, and supervised by ASHA-certified SLPs. Speech-Language Pathology Assistant is defined as any person who assists in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in this Act. A person represents himself/herself to be a speech-language pathology assistant when he/she holds himself/herself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms “speech pathology assistant,” “speech pathologist assistant,” “speech language pathology support personnel,” “speech therapy assistant,” “speech therapist assistant,” “speech teacher assistant,” “speech correction assistant,” “speech correctionist assistant,” “speech clinic assistant,” “speech clinician assistant,” “language therapy assistant,” “language therapist assistant,” “language pathology assistant,” “language pathologist assistant,” “language specialist assistant,” “voice therapy assistant,” “voice therapist assistant,” “voice pathologist assistant,” “logopedics assistant,” “logopedist assistant,” “communicology assistant,” “communicologist assistant,” “communication specialist assistant,” “aphasiology assistant,” “aphasiologist assistant,” “phoniatriest assistant,” or any variation, synonym, coinage, or other word that expresses, employs, or implies these terms, names, or functions.

Medically Fragile – is the term used to describe a student / patient / client who is acutely ill and / or in an unstable condition.

Continuing Education Units – The SLPA must obtain 20 hours of continuing education units every two (2) years.

Add or change - TELEHEALTH to TELEPRACTICE - or add Definition of TELEPRACTICE

Additional comments from BG: What about adding this? “Minimum ongoing supervision must always include documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP to each student, patient, or client at least every 60 calendar days.” (from the ASHA Website: <https://www.asha.org/policy/sp2013-00337/#sec1.7>)