DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS for AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

CHAPTER 101 AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

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10100 GENERAL PROVISIONS

10100.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a registration to practice as an audiology assistant.

10100.2 Chapters 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules), 41 (Health Occupations: Administrative Procedures), and 78 (Audiology) of this title shall supplement this chapter.

10100.3 No person may practice as an audiology assistant (also known as “audiology assisting”) without a registration issued pursuant to this chapter.

10100.4 Notwithstanding § 10100.3, during a period of twelve (12) months from the effective date of this chapter, a person who is practicing as an audiology assistant (also known as “audiology assisting”) on the effective date of this chapter and continue to practice without a registration shall not be deemed to be in violation of § 10100.3.

10101 TERM OF REGISTRATION

10101.1 Subject to § 10101.2, a registration issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 Midnight of December 31 of each even-numbered year.

10101.2 Pursuant to § 4006.3, the Director may change the renewal system and the expiration dates of registrations issued pursuant to this chapter.

10102 EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT

10102.1 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, to qualify for a registration to practice as an audiology assistant, an applicant shall have completed one of the following educational levels in audiology assisting, hearing sciences and disorders, communication sciences and disorders, or equivalent as determined by the Board:

(a) Two (2) years of accredited college education, with a minimum of forty-eight (48) semester hours or seventy-two (72) quarter hours;

(b) An associate's degree from an accredited college; or

(c) A technical school certification program.

10103 WAIVER OF EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT

10103.1 The Board may waive the educational requirement of § 10102.1 for an applicant who:

(a) Provides proof that he or she was employed as an audiology assistant under the direct supervision of an audiologist for a minimum of 15 hours per week during three (3) of the five (5) years before February 5, 2014; and

(b) Applies for registration no later than twelve (12) months from the effective date of this section.

10104 REGISTRATION BY ENDORSEMENT

10104.1 An applicant may be eligible for registration by endorsement if:

(a) The applicant is currently licensed or registered in good standing as an audiology assistant under the laws of a state or territory of the United States pursuant to the requirements determined by the Board to be substantially equivalent to the requirements of § 10102.1; or

(b) The applicant is currently licensed or registered in good standing as an audiology assistant in another state or territory of the United States and has practiced in the state or territory for a minimum of two (2) years.

10105 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

10105.1 No person may practice as an audiology assistant unless he or she is

duly registered pursuant to this chapter and performs the duties of the profession under the supervision of a licensed audiologist meeting the requirements of § 10105.2.

10105.2 An audiologist licensed under this title may qualify to supervise an audiology assistant only if he or she meets the following requirements:

(a) Possessing current and valid license to practice audiology in the District of Columbia;

(b) Having practiced audiology in the District or any other jurisdiction of the United States for at least two (2) years; and

(c) Not having been subject of a formal or public disciplinary action by the Board or any other jurisdiction within the United States within the previous two (2) years.

10105.3 An audiology assistant may assist an audiologist with audiological evaluation and in treatment programs.

10105.4 An audiology assistant may not perform any of the following actions or functions:

(a) Independently performing or administering hearing diagnostic tests;

(b) Determining case selection or evaluation protocols;

(c) Interpreting observations or data into diagnostic statements of clinical management strategies or procedures;

(d) Participating in team or case conferences or on any interdisciplinary team, without the presence of the supervising audiologist or an audiologist designated by the supervising audiologist;

(e) Writing, developing, or modifying a patient's individualized treatment plan;

(f) Assisting with patients without following the treatment plan prepared by the audiologist or without proper supervision;

(g) Composing or signing any formal documents (e.g., treatment plans, reimbursement forms, or reports);

(h) Transmitting or disclosing clinical information, either orally or in writing, to anyone, including the patient, without the

approval of the supervising audiologist;

(i) Selecting patients for treatment services or discharging patients from treatment services;

(j) Counseling or consulting with the patient, family, or others regarding the patient status or service or making referrals for additional services; or

(k) Referring to him/ or herself either orally or in writing with a title other than one determined by the supervising audiologist.

10105.7 An audiology assistant may not practice when a supervisor cannot be reached by personal contact, phone, pager, or other immediate means.

10105.8 An audiology assistant shall cease practice immediately if there is no audiologist providing supervision.

10106 SUPERVISION OF AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANT

10106.1 The supervisor shall retain full professional and ethical responsibility for the professional conduct and performance of the audiology assistant and shall delegate duties only as commensurate with the training, experience, and ability of the audiology assistant and within the scope of lawful practice pursuant to this chapter.

10106.2 The supervisor shall be immediately available on the premises to the supervisee and within vocal communication of the supervisee either directly or by a communication device. The supervisor shall personally diagnose the condition to be treated, personally authorize procedures, and personally evaluate the performance of the audiologist assistant before dismissal of the patient.

10106.3 The supervisor shall verify that an audiology assistant holds a current, valid registration prior to the commencement of the audiology assistant's practice.

10106.4 The supervisor shall ensure that the audiology assistant under his or her supervision understands and adheres to the professional code of ethics applicable to the supervisor him- or herself.

10107 STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR AUDIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

10107.1 An audiology assistant shall adhere to the standards set forth in either the current Code of Ethics of the American Speech-Language-Hearing

Association or the current Code of Ethics for the American Academy of Audiology as applicable to the supervising audiologist.

10107.2 An audiology assistant shall clearly identify himself or herself to patients or clients as an audiology assistant at all times and shall not act or communicate in any manner that may give the impression that the audiology assistant is authorized to practice independently or as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in any way.

10107.3 An audiology assistant shall perform only those functions of the profession that are within his or her scope of competence, training, and experience.

10108 CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

10108.1 This section shall apply to applicants for renewal, reactivation, or reinstatement of a registration and shall not apply to applicants for an initial registration or applicants seeking renewal of a registration for the first time after the initial grant of the registration.

10108.2 To be eligible for the renewal of a registration, an applicant shall have completed, during the two (2)-year period preceding the date the registration expires, ten (10) hours of approved continuing education related to audiology, including one (1) hour of ethics and two (2) hours of continuing education on cultural competency or specialized clinical training focusing on patients or clients who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, queer, or question their sexual orientation or gender identity and expression ("LGBTQ") meeting the requirements of section 510(b)(5) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.10(b)(5)).

10108.3 To be eligible for the reinstatement of a registration issued pursuant to this chapter, an applicant shall have completed ten (10) hours of continuing education described in § 10108.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reinstatement application.

10108.4 To qualify for the reactivation of a registration in accordance with section 511(c) of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.11(c)), the following applicants shall be deemed to meet the requirement of section 511(c)(2):

(a) An applicant who has been actively and lawfully practicing audiology assisting in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States;

(b) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing

audiology assisting in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States, seeks the reactivation of the registration five (5) years or less after the last expiration of the registration, and has completed ten (10) hours of continuing education described in § 10108.2 during the two (2) years preceding the submission of the reactivation application; or

(c) An applicant who has not been actively and lawfully practicing audiology assisting in another jurisdiction or territory of the United States and seeks the reactivation of the registration more than five (5) years after the last expiration of the registration who can demonstrate his or her current competency to the Board's satisfaction.

10108.5 The Board may conduct a random audit of at least ten percent (10%) of its active registrants to determine continuing education compliance. Any registrant selected for the audit shall submit proof of his or her continuing education compliance to the Board within thirty (30) days of receiving notification of the audit.

10109 APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

10109.1 A continuing education hour shall be valid and granted credit only if it is part of a program or activity approved by the Board as a program or activity that contributes to the growth of professional competence in the practice of audiology assisting, is current in its subject matter, and is developed and taught or conducted by qualified individuals.

10109.2 Subject to § 10109.1, the Board may grant continuing education credit for programs or activities offered or sponsored by the following organizations:

(a) The Speech-Language Hearing Association of the District of Columbia or similar speech-language hearing association of another state;

(b) The American Academy of Audiology;

(c) The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and its approved continuing education providers;

(d) An accredited provider of The Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education of the American Medical Association offering Category I continuing medical education;

(e) The International Association of Continuing Education and Training (IACET) and its authorized providers;

(f) A health care organization accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or

(g) The International Hearing Society.

10109.3 Subject to § 10109.1, the Board may grant continuing education credit for the following activities:

(a) Attendance and completion of:

(1) A course given at an accredited college or university;

(2) A seminar or workshop;

(3) An educational program given at a conference; or

(4) An in-service training;

(b) Serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in- service training; or

(c) Publishing an article related to audiology or speech-language pathology in a professional journal or authoring or co-authoring a book, a chapter in a book or a book review related to audiology or speech-language pathology.

10109.4 The Board shall not grant credit for work done in the course of a requestor's normal occupation or incident to the performance of his or her regular duties, such as teaching courses, research, or course preparation in the case of a teacher or professor.

10109.5 A person seeking continuing education credits shall have the burden of verifying whether a program or activity is approved by the Board.

10109.6 Satisfactory proof of completion of a seminar, a workshop, or an educational program given at a conference or an in-service training shall include:

(a) The name and address of the provider of the program;

(b) The name of the program, its location, a description of the subject matter covered, and the names of the instructors;

(c) The dates on which the applicant attended the program;

(d) The hours of credit claimed; and

(e) Verification by the course provider or accreditor of completion, by signature, stamp, or official transcript in the case of accreditors.

10110 CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

10110.1 For the purposes of this chapter, one (1) credit hour shall mean sixty (60) minutes of learning time.

10110.2 The Board may grant ten (10) continuing education hours for completion of each credit hour of an academic course offered at an accredited college or university provided that the continuing education credit may only be granted for courses completed during the registration cycle for which the credit is claimed.

10110.3 The Board may grant two (2) continuing education hours for the audit of a three (3)-credit-hour academic course offered at an accredited college or university provided that the continuing education credit may only be granted for courses audited during the registration cycle for which the credit is claimed.

10110.4 A requestor may receive a maximum of five (5) continuing education hours for attendance and completion of in-service training programs.

10110.5 The Board may grant credit for serving as a presenter or speaker at a conference, seminar, workshop, or in-service training, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) Hours granted pursuant to this section shall not exceed three (3) per registration cycle;

(b) If a person has previously received credit in connection with a particular presentation, the Board shall not grant credit for a subsequent presentation unless it involves either a different subject or substantial additional research concerning the same subject;

(c) The presentation shall have been completed during the registration cycle for which credit is claimed; and

(d) The maximum amount of credit which may be granted for preparation time is twice the amount of the associated

presentation time or twice the amount of contact hours awarded to the participants.

10110.6 The Board may grant credit to an applicant for publication of an article in a professional journal or publication of a book or a chapter in a book or publication of a book review in a professional journal related to audiology or speech-language pathology, subject to the following restriction as relevant:

(a) The Board may grant eight (8) hours of continuing education credit per registration cycle, if the book has been published or accepted for publication during the period for which credit is claimed;

(b) The Board may grant four (4) hours of continuing education per registration cycle to the sole author or co-author of a peer-reviewed, published original paper; or

(c) The Board may grant one (1) continuing education hour of credit per registration cycle to the sole author of a published book review.

10199 DEFINITIONS

10199.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

Approved continuing education – A continuing education program or activity that meets the requirements of § 10109.

Board – The Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, established by section 841 of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Amendment Act of 2006, effective March 6, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-219; D.C. Official Code § 3-1208.41 (2016 Repl.)).

Direct supervision – Supervision in which the supervisor is immediately available on the premises to the supervisee and within vocal communication of the supervisee either directly or by a communication device and the supervisor personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes procedures, and personally evaluates the performance of the audiologist assistant before dismissal of the patient.

Registration Cycle – A period of two years between January 1 of each odd-numbered year, when a registration issued pursuant to this chapter begins to be effective, to December 31 of each even numbered year, when a registration issued pursuant to this chapter expires.

Reinstatement – The reinstatement of a registration in accordance with section 512 of the Act (D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.12).

Supervisor – An audiologist who is qualified under § 10105.2 and is supervising an audiology assistant.

10199.2 The definitions in § 4099 of this title are incorporated by reference into and are applicable to this chapter.