

Notice to the Professions

Maintaining confidentiality of CSHBC examination contents

December 19, 2023

Registrants and applicants who participate in the CSHBC Hearing Instrument Dispensing Practical Examination (HID Practical Exam) are required to sign the Candidate Confidentiality Agreement and the attestation of the Candidate Code of Conduct stating that they will maintain the confidentiality of the HID Practical Exam contents. CSHBC reminds registrants and applicants seeking full registration as a Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner (RHIP) to uphold their professional and ethical duty to maintain confidentiality of the College's examination contents.

Importance of maintaining confidentiality over exam contents

There is significant public interest in the competency of CSHBC registrants to deliver safe, ethical, and quality care. The College has a mandate to protect the public by setting and enforcing registration requirements to ensure the same. Successful completion of the HID Practical Exam is one requirement for those seeking full RHIP registration. Breaching confidentiality of the HID Practical Exam contents compromises the integrity of the exam, which in turn damages public trust in speech and hearing health professionals and calls the competency of the College registrants concerned into question.

Obligations imposed by confidentiality agreements

Prior to participating in the HID Practical Exam, candidates are required to sign the Candidate Confidentiality Agreement, which states that they will not divulge the contents of the examination, including specific questions, to other students, coworkers, supervisors, or employers. Candidates must also sign the attestation of the Candidate Code of Conduct acknowledging that they must maintain confidentiality of the examination contents at all times.

Preserving the integrity of the HID Practical Exam and upholding the confidentiality agreement and the code of conduct attestation fulfills a registrant's professional and ethical obligations. For applicants, respecting the College's requirement for confidentiality of the contents of the HID Practical Exam constitutes ethical conduct and demonstrates capacity for governability, which is an essential attribute for a registered health professional.

Consequences of breaching confidentiality

A registrant who discloses information about the HID Practical Exam in breach of their professional and ethical obligations may be referred to the Inquiry Committee for investigation. Compromising the integrity of the HID Practical Exam may constitute professional misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

An applicant who discloses information about the HID Practical Exam in breach of their signed confidentiality agreement or code of conduct attestation may be referred to the College's Registration Committee for consideration with respect to their application for registration with the College. In particular, the Registration Committee may assess whether the candidate's behaviour demonstrates dishonesty and raises an issue with respect to their good character requirements for registration.