



# Registrant Code of Ethics (Annotated)

Applies to Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Practitioners, and Speech-Language Pathologists

The College of Health and Care Professionals of BC was created on June 28, 2024 through the amalgamation of seven health regulatory colleges:

- College of Dietitians of British Columbia
- College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Optometrists of British Columbia
- College of Opticians of British Columbia
- College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia
- College of Psychologists of British Columbia
- College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia

All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the seven colleges remain in place upon amalgamation.

This document was created by the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.



Standard Category:	Standard Title:	Standard #:
Professional Standard	Registrant Code of Ethics (Annotated)	SOP-PROF-09
<b>Regulation   Bylaw Reference:</b>		<b>HPA Reference:</b>
		Section 19
<b>Authorization:</b>	<b>Date Approved:</b>	<b>Last Revised:</b>
CSHBC Board		June 29, 2020

## PURPOSE

The ethical conduct of Registered Audiologists (RAUDs), Hearing Instrument Practitioners (RHIPs), and Speech-Language Pathologists (RSLPs) is one of the most important factors in the delivery of quality care and is one of the public’s primary expectations of health care professionals. Continued public trust in the self-regulated, speech and hearing health professions is dependent on individual registrants adhering to the values and ethical principles of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professional of British Columbia (CSHBC). CSHBC Bylaws, standards of practice, and related clinical tools (e.g. clinical policies) are integrally linked to the principles of the CSHBC *Registrant Code of Ethics*. Registrants must adhere to, and not circumvent, the CSHBC *Registrant Code of Ethics*.

## VALUES

**Beneficence:** Maximize benefits and minimize harm for the welfare of the client.

**Client Autonomy:** Understand and respect clients’ rights to make informed decisions based on their personal values and beliefs.

**Fairness:** Treat all individuals, clients, colleagues, and third parties without prejudice or discrimination in a just and equitable manner.

**Integrity:** Be truthful; behave with honour and decency while upholding the CSHBC standards of practice.

## PRINCIPLES<sup>1</sup>

CSHBC registrants must:

- A. Provide appropriate, safe and timely care that is provided with respect and without discrimination.

*Applicable standard(s) of practice: All standards.*

<sup>1</sup> At the end of each standard of practice document there is a ‘related CSHBC documents’ section, which indicates which other documents (e.g., clinical policies) may be pertinent and relevant to the standard.

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- B.** Ensure that the health and wellbeing of the client is their primary concern.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: All standards; Duty to Report (SOP-PROF-04); Client Abuse Neglect Family Violence (CPG-10).*
- C.** Maintain the confidentiality and privacy of client information and records as required by applicable legislation and the CSHBC standards of practice for all services provided.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Documentation & Records Management (SOP-PRAC-01).*
- D.** Provide clients with accurate information about the nature and management of their communication and related disorders.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05); Client Consent (SOP-PRAC-06).*
- E.** Recognize and accept their accountabilities and responsibilities to the public.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05).*
- F.** Avoid activities that constitute a conflict of interest and seek to resolve any conflict(s) promptly and permanently.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: pending.*
- G.** Comply with the CSHBC Quality Assurance & Professional Practice (QAPP) program, standards of practice, and related Clinical Decision Support Tools (e.g. clinical policies, clinical practice guidelines, and clinical protocols).  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05).*
- H.** Maintain current knowledge and demonstrate ongoing competency throughout their career.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Attaining & Maintaining Practice Competence (SOP-PROF-04); Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05).*
- I.** Maintain a safe and healthy practice environment for the provision of client care and services.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Audiology (CPG-08) and Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for Speech-Language Pathology (CPG-09).*
- J.** Maintain appropriate and respectful boundaries in relationships with clients.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Professional Boundaries: Where's the Line? (CPG-05).*
- K.** Respect the client's right to be cared for by their choice of care provider, where possible, including care provided by communication health assistants and students.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Professional Accountability & Responsibility (SOP-PROF-05); Communication Health Assistants (Delegation & Assignment) (SOP-PRAC-04).*
- L.** Respect previous and concurrent services provided by other registrants or other health care providers.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Inter-Professional Collaborative Practice (SOP-PROF-01).*
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- M.** Recognize professional and clinical limitations and refer clients to other registrants and health care providers as appropriate.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Unique & Shared Scope of Practice (SOP-PROF-03); Attaining & Maintaining Practice Competence (SOP-PROF-05); Certified Practice (SOP-PROF-06).*
- N.** Conduct any teaching or research activities in keeping with the College's clinical practice and professional standards, and fully inform the client about the nature and possible effects of all activities.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Client Consent (SOP-PRAC-06).*
- O.** Never overstate or embellish their abilities or qualifications nor engage in any activity, including marketing, that could mislead a reasonable person.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Marketing (SOP-PROF-07).*
- P.** Not exploit any clinical relationship with a client or others to further their own physical, emotional, financial, political or business interests at the expense of the best interest of the client.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Marketing (SOP-PROF-07).*
- Q.** Not secure or accept referrals, by providing (directly or indirectly) any incentives (financial or otherwise) to colleagues or other professionals.  
*Applicable standard(s) of practice: Marketing (SOP-PROF-07).*