



SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR ASSOCIATE AUDIOLOGISTS

The Scope of Practice for Associate Audiologists is that for which individuals are trained, educated and then assessed as being competent to practise

Associate Audiologists are healthcare practitioners working with appropriate accountability to undertake the following scope of practice. They will work with hearing impaired adults having routine (non-complex) hearing pathologies or disabilities. They will have obtained the appropriate education, training and skills in hearing testing and fitting of hearing aids for the identified client group, working to agreed protocols and procedures and accountable to professionally qualified graduate or equivalent Audiologists.

They will work as part of a team within defined regulatory and clinical governance arrangements.

Associate Audiologists will recognise their own limits of competence and levels of responsibility and accountability at all times within the approved scope of practice. They will maintain their personal competence and work as a reflective practitioner in order to deliver high quality client care.

The Associate Audiologist may also assist with a wider range of more complex investigations and interventions of non-routine pathology or disability or complex needs as part of a wider healthcare team and with appropriate supervision.

The Associate Audiologist will:

1. Utilise effective communication with patients/clients, their carers, relatives and relevant others
2. Perform investigations, following recommended procedures, for an individual client including:
 - Otoscopy
 - Pure Tone Diagnostic or Screening Audiometry
 - Tympanometry
3. Develop, deliver and maintain the appropriate part of a treatment plan
4. Refer on to senior colleagues and services as indicated (e.g. where more complex issues are identified) with agreement from client, carers, relatives and relevant others
5. Following protocols, record and report results to clients, carers, relatives and relevant others and professional colleagues including directly into data management systems
6. As part of the treatment plan, undertake interventions to include:
 - a) Taking ear impressions
 - b) Undertaking ear mould fitting and modification
 - c) Selecting, programming and evaluating hearing aid systems
 - d) Verifying hearing aid performance and appropriateness of selection
 - e) Evaluating patient performance with hearing aid systems, making modifications according to client needs
 - f) Undertaking hearing aid reprogramming, maintenance, repairs, adjustments and aural care
 - g) Selecting and providing additional assistive technology
7. Provide appropriate advice on rehabilitation and self-management of the client condition

8. Deliver safe efficient and effective practice
9. Promote the understanding and conservation of hearing and the management of hearing impairment
10. Co-ordinate the work of others within limits of individual competence and responsibility and work co-operatively with other professionals in the health and social care management of individuals
11. Contribute to audit and quality management procedures
12. Demonstrate understanding and give advice on the financial consequences associated with the provision of hearing aid systems and/or other devices and with all related professional and aftercare services

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