



ADVISORY STATEMENT

CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL PRACTICE: LOCATION OF CARE AND REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY

INTRODUCTION

An advisory statement from the College of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists of Saskatchewan (CSASK) is intended to provide information, guidance, and recommendations to assist CSASK registrants in complying with existing legislation. An advisory statement is not considered legal advice.

This advisory statement clarifies the regulatory accountability when audiologists and speech-language pathologists deliver services through virtual care and across jurisdictional boundaries. The regulated professional is ultimately responsible for decisions, actions, and outcomes in professional practice, regardless of external factors such as employer direction, team environment, or care delivery methods.

The expansion of virtual care and cross-jurisdictional practice does not shift the accountability away from the individual professional. Instead, it extends accountability by requiring awareness of **jurisdictional**, technological, and ethical complexities. Upholding this principle is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring safe, high-quality care across all practice environments.

STATEMENT

The location of care refers to the jurisdiction (or geographic location) in which the care is legally deemed to occur and whose regulatory requirements apply. In Saskatchewan, the client encounter is deemed to occur within the jurisdiction **where the client is physically located** at the time care/services are provided, which may not be the location where the client holds primary residence.

When providing services across jurisdictional boundaries, accountability is tied to the location of care, meaning that the regulated professional must ensure:

- appropriate registration, licensure, or authorization in the jurisdiction **where the client is physically located before providing care.**
- compliance with the other applicable requirements of the jurisdiction where the client is located.

CSASK Registrants:

Before providing services to persons located in other jurisdictions, **CSASK registrants must** contact the regulatory body in the applicable jurisdiction to confirm registration and licensure requirements.

This requirement applies when providing:

1. virtual or in-person services to clients who are located in another regulated jurisdiction, including Saskatchewan clients who are temporarily outside of Saskatchewan.

2. follow-up service to a client who returns to their home jurisdiction after receiving in-person services in Saskatchewan.
3. services to Saskatchewan clients while the CSASK registrant is temporarily located in another jurisdiction (e.g. on holidays, etc.).

CSASK registrants must also:

- Ensure clients understand jurisdictional considerations, including potential impacts on continuity of care.
- Document the physical location of both the client and the provider at the time services are delivered.

Note: The legislation of some Canadian-regulated jurisdictions may permit the delivery of reasonably urgent, and limited services (ex. 3 hours per registration year) within the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology without a cross-provincial licence, where the client/patient is temporarily absent from their primary province and is physically present in a secondary province. Example scenarios include:

- Your client/patient requires a hearing aid adjustment to manage a new listening environment they find themselves in while on vacation in another province.
- Your client/patient requests a short intervention for managing their fluency in a new situation.

As stated above, it is the CSASK registrant's responsibility to contact the regulatory body in the applicable jurisdiction to confirm registration and licensure requirements prior to engaging in urgent and limited cross-provincial services.

Out of Province Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists:

Audiologists and speech-language pathologists registered in another jurisdiction must be registered and/or licensed with CSASK before providing professional services, whether virtual or in person, to clients physically located in Saskatchewan.

Exception: CSASK registration and licensure is NOT required when engaging in virtual or in-person consultative services with CSASK registrants, providing that the client is NOT present and consent has been obtained from the CSASK registrant and from the client (when personal information is shared).

GLOSSARY

“client” – refers to the individual, group, community or population receiving audiology or speech-language pathology services and may also be referred to as a “patient”.

“registrant” - refers to an individual who is registered as a member of CSASK.