ADVISORY STATEMENT

USE OF THE TITLE "DOCTOR"

A CSASK advisory statement is intended to provide information, direction and recommendations to assist CSASK registrants in complying with existing legislation. An advisory statement is not considered legal advice.

PURPOSE OF THIS ADVISORY STATEMENT

To outline restrictions of the use of the title "Doctor" or any related abbreviations.

SCOPE

All registered audiologists and speech-language pathologists with doctoral degrees.

STATEMENT

Use of the title "Doctor" is restricted in the course of providing health care. Registered audiologists and speech-language pathologists with doctoral degrees should only use the title "Doctor" when it is used:

- in combination with other words when providing services in a health care setting; and/or
- alone or in combination with other words, in connection with teaching, research or administration.

BACKGROUND

In Saskatchewan, use of the title "Doctor" is restricted as set out in *The Medical Profession Act, 1981*:

> 80(1) A person who is not registered under this Act and who:
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> (c) assumes, uses or employs the term "doctor", "surgeon", "physician" or "podiatric surgeon" or any affix or prefix indicative of any such title as an occupational designation that relates to the treatment of human ailments, or advertises or holds himself out as such;
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> is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction, in the case of a first offence, to a fine of not more than $5,000, in the case of a second offence, to a fine of not more than $10,000, and, in the case of a third or subsequent offence, to a fine of not more than $15,000.

The purpose of this restriction is to avoid confusion among the public. Use of the title "Doctor" in a healthcare setting may mislead members of the public to believe that the individual is a licensed medical doctor.

COMPLYING WITH *THE MEDICAL PROFESSION ACT, 1981*

In order to comply with this legislation in health care settings:

- CSASK registrants should not refer to themselves, or allow others (e.g., staff or clients) to refer to them, as "Doctor Jane" or "Doctor John Doe" in the course of providing health care.
- CSASK registrants with doctoral degrees may only use the title "Doctor" in combination with other words to describe their academic qualifications in the course of providing health care. For example:
    - a CSASK registrant with a "Doctorate of Audiology" or "AuD" may describe him or herself as "John Doe, Registered Audiologist, Doctorate of Audiology*"
    - a CSASK registrant with a "Doctorate of Speech-Language Pathology" may describe him or herself as "John Doe, Registered Speech-Language Pathologists, Doctorate of Speech-Language Pathology"
      *as per legal recommendation, in order to avoid confusion for the public, use of the titles Doctor of Audiology/Doctor of Speech-Language Pathology are discouraged.

In order to comply with this legislation in academic settings:

- CSASK registrants with doctoral degrees may use the title "Doctor" alone or in combination with other words, in connection with teaching, research or administration. For example:
    - A CSASK registrant with a doctoral degree may describe him or herself as "Dr. John Doe" in an academic setting.

NOTE: CSASK registrants that hold doctoral degrees in a field other than audiology, speech-language pathology or communications sciences and disorders should not use their academic qualifications to imply that their doctoral degree is in the area of audiology, speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders. For example, "Jane Doe, PhD, SLP" should not be used as this could imply to consumers that the PhD is in speech-language pathology.