

Dear SAC Ontario Speech-Language Pathology Members,

We are pleased to share that SAC formally submitted a proposal to the Ontario Ministry of Health in early June, recommending important updates to the scope of practice for speech-language pathologists (S-LPs).

Building on recommendations previously developed by the Ontario Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (OSLA), SAC's submission is grounded in feedback from S-LPs and prioritizes the key areas you have identified as most critical to advancing your practice and meeting patient needs.

To reflect the breadth of your professional competencies and support safe, appropriate care across diverse practice settings, SAC has recommended the following updates:

1. **Amending the scope of practice statement** to include the terms "*diagnosis*" and "*swallowing*."
2. **Adding authority to perform the following controlled acts:**
 - Communicating a diagnosis and identifying a communicative or swallowing disorder.
 - Ordering a videofluoroscopic swallow study for the assessment or management of a swallowing disorder.
 - Inserting an instrument, hand, or finger beyond the point in the nasal passage where it normally narrows to assess or manage a communication or swallowing disorder.
 - Inserting an instrument, hand, or finger into an artificial opening for managing voice disorders, voice restoration, and suctioning a tracheostomy.
 - Applying or ordering an ultrasound to manage persistent speech disorders.
3. **Removing statutory limitations to:**
 - Enable direct referrals to specialists such as ENTs and psychologists.
 - Receive and act on reports of screening or diagnostic tests ordered by other health professionals to support diagnosis and care planning.

These proposed amendments are designed to allow S-LPs to work within their full scope of practice, reduce unnecessary delays, and ensure patients receive timely and effective care.

We appreciate your continued feedback and engagement and the role you've played in shaping this proposal. As the healthcare system evolves, SAC is committed to continuing scope of practice discussions that are timely, member-informed, and patient-focused.

We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of our advocacy and policy work. Thank you for your dedication to advancing speech-language pathology services across Ontario.

Sincerely,

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