

Speech-Language Pathology

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Professional Practice Leader (Charlton, West 5th)

Scope of Practice

The practice of speech-language pathology is the assessment of speech and language functions and the treatment and prevention of speech and language dysfunctions or disorders to develop, maintain, rehabilitate or augment oral motor or communicative functions.

Controlled Act
Authorized to Speech Language Pathology for "Putting an instrument, hand or finger into an artificial opening in the body".

Procedures
Pertaining to
Tracheoesophageal
Voice Restoration
Following Total
Laryngectomy.

Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	PTE	POSITION
Charlton	8.6		Speech-Language Pathologists
West 5th	.4		Speech-Language Pathologists
Offsite: Satellite Health Facility (SHF)	1		Speech-Language Pathologists

Major Achievements

CARING

Clinical Practice:

- Received the 2023 Hamilton Spectator Readers' Choice Gold Award for Speech Therapy Services
- Offered in-person and virtual New Voice Club, a support group for patients who have had a laryngectomy and their family
- Offered virtual, telephone and in-person appointments in the St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) Outpatient Swallowing Clinic
- Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) are active members of several SJHH committees, including General Internal Medicine Integrated Quality and Operations Committee, Inpatient Post-Acute Care Integrated Quality and Operations Committee; Acute Ambulatory Post-Acute Care Integrated Quality and Operations Committee, Critical Care Integrated Quality and Operations Committee and SJHH Ethics Committee

LEARNING

Education:

Clinical Education

- Four clinical placements for SLP learners from McMaster University
- One learner placement for a Western University student in the Applied Health Sciences Master's program
- One job shadow experience
- Two SLPs participated in the Multiple-Mini Interview process for new admissions to McMaster University SLP program
- Participated in "Take your Kids to Work" event for grade 9 students

LEARNING

Education Continued....

Formal Teaching

- Two SLPs are Assistant Clinical Professors (Adjunct), School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University
- Lectured to McMaster University SLP students regarding Voice Restoration Post-Laryngectomy
- Provided an in-service regarding dysphagia to General Internal Medicine nursing students
- Provided an in-service regarding “Dysphagia and Dementia” to recreation therapy students

Internal Education

- One SLP is a Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA) coach, facilitating education sessions at Charlton and West 5th sites
- Presented to the Head and Neck multi-disciplinary team at Head & Neck "Teach and Tea" regarding "The role of the SLP postoperative laryngectomy; communication and pulmonary considerations"
- Offered an education session for Head and Neck nurses regarding “SLP role pre and post laryngectomy”
- Offered an education session for Respiratory Therapists regarding "A review of Heat Moisture Exchange (HME) and tracheostoma supplies post laryngectomy"
- In collaboration with clinical nutrition, provided education regarding dysphagia management to the healthcare team at the Satellite Health Facility
- Provided training on feeding and swallowing to Personal Support Workers on the Nephrology inpatient unit
- In-person or recorded presentation on “Dysphagia and Dementia” was provided to new nursing and health professionals at West 5th

Research

- Established partnership with the Aging Swallow Research Lab at the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, McMaster University

BUILDING

Professional Practice Development

- Hosted May month movie event with ATOS Medical Canada. This inspirational film "Can you Hear my Voice" was offered to staff, learners and volunteers at SJHH
- One SLP completed the course, “Crucial Conversations” to improve skills for difficult conversations.
- SLPs attended education sessions at SJHH Learning Pillar week
- One SLP staff received education in Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Verbal Intervention Training
- One SLP is a member of SJHH Wellness committee
- Member of the Dysphagia Research Society (DRS) with membership offering monthly virtual education sessions on dysphagia

LEADING

External Activities:

Committees

- Volunteer Committee Member, the Speech Language Pathology Program Council and Admissions Working Group in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences for McMaster University
- Member, the Hamilton Region Speech and Language Audiology Council (HRSLAC)
- Member, Southern Ontario SLP Leaders Group
- Member, SLP of Ontario Oncology Network (SPOON)
- Member, speech Pathologists of Ontario of Critical care Collaborative, a network of critical care SLPs across Ontario
- Member, Discipline Committee (non-board), College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario
- Co-Chair, Professional Advisory Committee

Major Initiatives for 2024/25:

CARING

- Improve timely access to SJHH Outpatient Swallowing Clinic
- Investigate use of Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES), as another swallowing assessment tool
- Provide education to health care team members in the areas of swallowing and oral care to support patient care

LEARNING

- Continue to offer clinical placements to SLP learners from McMaster University
- Continue to support the SLP program at McMaster University through guest lectures, Multiple Mini Interviews, or other requested activities

