

Position Statement

Use of Endoscopy by Speech-Language Pathologists: Position Statement

Working Group on Endoscopy

About this Document

This position statement is an official policy of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The ASHA *Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology* (ASHA, 2007) states that the practice of speech-language pathology includes providing services for individuals with speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing disorders. The ASHA *Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Speech-Language Pathology* (ASHA, 2004b) are statements that define universally applicable characteristics of practice. It is required that individuals who practice independently in this area hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology and abide by the ASHA Code of Ethics (ASHA, 2003), including Principle of Ethics II, Rule B, which states that “individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the profession that are within the scope of their competence, considering their level of education, training, and experience.” This document was developed by the Working Group on Endoscopy. Members of the group were Susan Butler (chair), Robert Hillman, Bernice Klaben, Susan Langmore, Alison Scheer-Cohen, Thomas Watterson, and Janet Brown (ASHA liaison). Brian B. Shulman, vice president for professional practices in speech-language pathology (2006–2008), served as the monitoring officer. This document was approved by the Board of Directors on April 18, 2008.

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It is the official position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) that endoscopy is an imaging procedure included within the scope of practice for speech-language pathologists and described in previously established ASHA documents (ASHA, 1998, 2004c, 2004d, 2004e, 2005a, 2005b, 2007).

Speech-language pathologists with specialized training (ASHA, 2002, 2004a) in flexible/nasal endoscopy,

rigid/oral endoscopy, and/or stroboscopy use these tools for the purpose of evaluating and treating disorders of speech, voice, resonance, and swallowing function.

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Other Resources

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Index terms: assessment, endoscopy, swallowing

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