SCOPE OF PRACTISE
FOR AUDIOLOGY
PROFESSION
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I. **Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to define the scope of practice in audiology in order to:
(a) describe the services offered by qualified audiologists as primary service providers, case managers, and/or members of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary teams;
(b) serve as a reference for health care, education, and other professionals, and for clients, members of the general public, and policy makers concerned with legislation, regulation, licensure, and third party reimbursement; and
(c) inform members of professional bodies, certificate holders, and students of the activities for which certification in audiology is required in accordance with the AHP Act 2016 Code of Ethics.

This document is not intended to be an exhaustive list of activities in which audiologists engage. Rather, it is a broad statement of professional practice. Periodic updating of any scope of practice statement is necessary as technologies and perspectives change.

II. **Definition of Audiologist**

Audiologist is a certified professional in accordance to Allied Health Profession (AHP) Act 2016 whom engage in an autonomous practice to promote healthy hearing, communication competency, and quality of life for persons of all ages through the prevention, identification, assessment, rehabilitation and research of hearing, peripheral or central auditory function, vestibular, balance, and other related systems.

Audiologist facilitates prevention through the fitting of hearing protective devices, education programmes for industry and the public, hearing screening/conservation programmes, and research. The audiologist is the professional responsible for the identification of impairments and dysfunction of the peripheral or central auditory function, vestibular, balance, and other related systems. Their unique education and training provides them with the skills to assess and diagnose dysfunction in hearing, peripheral or central auditory function, vestibular, balance, and related disorders. The delivery of audiological (re)habilitation services includes not only the selecting, fitting, and dispensing of hearing aids and other hearing assistive devices, but also the assessment and follow-up services for persons with hearing implants. The audiologist providing audiological (re)habilitation does so through a comprehensive programme of therapeutic services, devices, counselling, and other management strategies. Functional diagnosis of vestibular disorders and management of balance rehabilitation is another
aspect of the professional responsibilities of the audiologist. Audiologist also engages in research pertinent to all of these domains.

III. Scope of Practise

1) Identification
• Management, supervision and provision of advice on newborn hearing screening programmes, and coordination with long-term audiological services for children with hearing impairment and their families.
• Development and oversight of other hearing screening programmes which aim at the early detection of hearing and related problems to achieve the best possible outcome for those participating in the programmes
• Training and supervision of non-audiologist staff to provide these programmes in a variety of health and education settings

2) Assessment and Diagnosis
• The conduct and interpretation of behavioural, middle ear measurement, electroacoustic, and/or electrophysiological methods, vestibular and balance diagnostic assessment to assess peripheral and central auditory function, vestibular and balance, and related systems;
• Measurement and interpretation of sensory and motor evoked potentials, electromyography, and other electrodiagnostic tests for purposes of neurophysiological intraoperative monitoring and cranial nerve assessment;
• Evaluation and management of children and adults with auditory-related processing disorders;
• Performance of otoscopy for appropriate audiological management or to provide a basis for medical referral;
• Cerumen management to prevent obstruction of the external ear canal and of amplification devices or for the purpose of audiological management only;
• Preparation of a report including interpreting data, summarizing findings, generating recommendations and developing an audiological management plan;
• Referrals to other professions, agencies, and/ or related organisations.

3) Rehabilitation/Habilitation
• Provision of the full range of habilitative and rehabilitative services to clients; this includes the design, management and evaluation of needs' assessments and individual audiological plans.
• Making impressions of the ear canal for provision of devices for hearing protection or audiological management.
• Selection, prescription, fitting, evaluation of hearing devices and facilitation of adjustment to hearing devices, including all types of hearing aids, tinnitus therapy instruments, hearing implants, personal sound amplifiers, frequency modulation (FM) systems, assistive listening devices (ALDs), alerting systems and telecommunication systems.
• Measuring outcomes of hearing interventions and monitoring their continuous use.
• Provision of individual/group counselling for psychosocial adjustment to hearing loss for people with hearing impairment and their families/caregivers.
• Provision of counselling, therapy and (re)habilitation for persons with tinnitus, loudness intolerance, vestibular and balance dysfunction and auditory processing disorders.
• Provision of audiological (re)habilitation including informational counselling, communication management, auditory and communication skill development, and auditory training.
• Provision of services and advice on acoustics modification, planning of educational programmes and accessibility as related to management of hearing loss particularly in relation to schools, workplaces, home and related premises.

4) Advocacy/consultation
• Advocacy for communication needs of all individuals that may include advocating for the rights/funding of services for those with hearing loss, auditory, or vestibular and balance disorders.
• Consultation with professionals of related and/or allied services when needed.
• Consultation to educators as members of interdisciplinary teams about communication management, educational implications of hearing loss and other auditory dysfunction, educational programmes, classroom acoustics, and large-area amplification systems for children with hearing loss and other auditory dysfunction.
• Consultation about accessibility for persons with hearing loss and other auditory dysfunction in public and private buildings, programmes, and services.
• Consultation to individuals, public and private agencies, and governmental bodies, or as an expert witness regarding legal interpretations of audiological findings, effects of hearing loss and other auditory dysfunctions, vestibular and balance system impairments, and relevant noise-related considerations.
• Case management and service as a liaison for the clients, family, and agencies in order to monitor audiological status and management and to make recommendations about educational and vocational programmes.

• Consultation of instruments related to the measurement and management of auditory or vestibular and balance function.

5) **Hearing Conservation**

• Prevention of hearing loss and conservation of normal hearing function by designing, implementing and coordinating occupational, school, and community hearing loss prevention and hazardous sound awareness programmes.

• Evaluation of occupational or recreational risk of noise induced/ music induced hearing loss through audiological screening, diagnostic, hearing monitoring.

• Measurement of noise levels and provision of recommendations for environmental modifications in order to reduce the noise level.

• Reporting of audiological findings including baseline audiogram, subsequent audiogram, subjective and objective assessments.

• Provision of and counselling in the use of protective hearing devices such as ear plugs and muffs.

• Designing, provision and monitoring of training courses for competent person to perform hearing screening and conservation programmes.

• Designing and provision of programmes tailored to the needs of the clients (i.e., Hearing Conservation Programmes (HCP) team members, employee work groups, supervisors, and upper management).

• Evaluation of the effectiveness of hearing conservation programmes and provision of meaningful feedback to all levels of personnel involved in the implementation and management of the programmes.

6) **Education/ Research/Administration**

• Education, supervision, and administration for audiology graduate and other professional education programmes.

• Measurement of functional outcomes, client's satisfaction, efficacy, effectiveness, and efficiency of practices and programmes to maintain and improve the quality of audiological services.

• Design and conduct of basic and applied audiological research to increase the knowledge base, to develop new methods and programmes, and to determine the
efficacy, effectiveness, and efficiency of assessment and treatment paradigms; disseminate research findings to other professionals and to the public.

- Participation in the development of professional and technical standards.
- Participation in quality improvement programmes.
- Programmes administration and supervision of professionals as well as support personnel.

IV. Restrictions on unregistered practitioner

A person, who is not registered as a certified Audiologist under this Act, shall not practise or carry on or operate, or hold himself out as practising or carrying on or operating the Scope of Practise as mentioned in this document.

Any person, who contravenes subsection above, commits an offence and shall, on conviction, is subject to Laws of Malaysia Act 774 Section 33 (2).

V. References

1. British Academy Audiology Scope of Practice (2014)