



Position Statement

Virtual Cross-Provincial Practice and Locus of Accountability

Overview:

With the rise in the provision of virtual services across professional settings, particularly since 2020, questions have emerged regarding registration requirements for clinicians offering these services to clients or patients outside their home province. This statement clarifies the position of the New Brunswick Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (NBASLPA) on the necessity of registration when providing or receiving virtual services across provincial borders.

Position on Locus of Accountability (LOA):

The concept of 'Locus of Accountability' (LOA) refers to the determination of where a virtual service is considered to take place. The LOA can be tied to either:

- The location where the client or patient resides and receives the services, or
- The jurisdiction where the clinician providing the service is based.

In the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology, most regulated jurisdictions across Canada, including New Brunswick, hold that the LOA lies where the client or patient resides and receives the virtual services. This means that the regulatory accountability is connected to the client's location, not the clinician's.

Implications for Practice in New Brunswick:

Out-of-Province Clinicians:

- Any clinician from another jurisdiction who provides virtual services to clients or patients residing in New Brunswick must be registered with NBASLPA.

New Brunswick Clinicians Providing Virtual Services Elsewhere:

- New Brunswick-based audiologists and speech-language pathologists who intend to offer virtual services to clients or patients in another regulated jurisdiction should contact the relevant regulatory body in that province to determine registration requirements and understand the LOA stance.

Cross-Provincial Practice Agreement:

In 2022, New Brunswick, along with Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, entered into a Cross-Provincial Practice Agreement. This agreement facilitates the provision of virtual services across these provinces by allowing audiologists and speech-language pathologists to practice for up to 200 hours within a 12-month period in any of the signatory provinces through a streamlined Cross-Provincial Practice Registration, available for a reduced fee of \$200.

Exemptions to Registration:

Inter-Clinician Consultation:

- NBASLPA does not require out-of-province clinicians to register when engaging in virtual consultations with New Brunswick clinicians, provided that the client or patient is not present, and consent has been obtained from both the client/patient and the New Brunswick clinician. Such collaboration is encouraged to ensure continuity of care.

Out-of-Scope Services:

- When virtual services fall outside the defined scope of practice under the New Brunswick Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act or are explicitly exempted in Section 22 of Part IV of the Act, the out-of-province clinician is not required to be registered with NBASLPA. [NBASLPA Act](#)

NBASLPA remains committed to ensuring public safety by regulating, supporting and ensuring the competent, safe and ethical practice of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in New Brunswick. All members of NBASLPA must practice in compliance with the Act, the Bylaws and Rules of the Association.