### Speech and Language Pathologist

The Audiologist must have equivalent qualifications and competence as employed individuals performing the same or similar services at the facility. **Note:** Does not include clinical neurophysiology. Contact HealthONE Credentials Support Center at 303-584-2140.

#### Definition of Care or Service:

Diagnoses, treats and manages patients who have hearing, balance and related ear problems. Scope of Service may include:

- Performs otoscopic examinations
- Recommends treatment options for dysfunctions in hearing
- Evaluates and fits patients for amplification and assistive listening devices
- Provides audiologic treatment services
- Acts as a member of a hearing device implant team
- Provides pre and post hearing device implant assessment, counseling and treatment
- Auditory brain stem response
- Oto acoustic emission test
- Intraoperative 7th and 8th cranial nerve function testing
- Electrocochleography
- Evaluation of Vestibular System (requires completion of recognized course):
  - Thermal test of vestibular function
  - Rotation tests
- Documents verbal physician orders specific to scope of care per hospital policy
- Refers patients to physicians when hearing problems need medical and / or surgical attention
- Counsels and trains patients to cope with hearing and balance related problems
- Maintains and secures patient data and records
- Documents treatments and patient interactions in the medical record
- Demonstrates Clinical and Service excellence behaviors to include code of HCA conduct core fundamentals in daily interactions with patients, families, co-workers and physicians

#### Setting(s):

- Healthcare facilities including but not limited to hospitals, outpatient treatment facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, imaging centers, and physician practices

#### Supervision:

- Direct supervision by Speech Therapy department director, site manager or designee
  - Indirect supervision by physician or other licensed independent practitioner that requests the Audiologist to participate in patient care
- Supervision is defined by any limitations in practice that may be addressed by state law

**Evaluator:** Speech Therapy department director or designee in conjunction with supervising physician or licensed independent practitioner

#### Qualifications:

- Doctoral Degree in Audiology (AuD) from an accredited university of professional school
  - If trained prior to 2007, may have a Master's Degree in Audiology
- A nine month to one year post-graduate clinical practicum experience with an accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs is required
- Certificate of clinical competence in Audiology (CCC-A) by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) or certification in Audiology by the American Board of Audiology (ABA)
- Current licensure as an Audiologist
- Documentation of completion of a recognized course in evaluation of the vestibular system (for thermal test of vestibular function and rotation tests)

**Experience:**
The Audiologist provides documentation that they have performed at least 25 instances of audiology services associated with their specific scope of service that were validated for quality and accuracy of results within the last 12 months.

**Competencies:**
The Audiologist will demonstrate:

- Safe and effective operation of audiology equipment
  - Demonstrates proficiency in using audiometric and other audiology measurement devices
  - Obtains quality diagnostic outputs
  - Maintains equipment in good working order
  - Demonstrates effective infection control practices related to equipment operation

- Accurate patient information review and evaluation
  - Uses at least two ways to identify patients before treating or performing a procedure
  - Verifies that the requested procedure correlates with the patient's clinical history, presentation and physician order
  - Participates in the preprocedure process to verify the correct procedure, for the correct patient, at the correct site and involves the patient in the verification process when possible
  - Participates in a time-out immediately before the start of an invasive procedure or making of the incision.
  - Accesses the patient medical record appropriately
  - Documents in the medical record according to the facility standard / policy

- Appropriate diagnostic examination results
  - Performs otoscopic examinations to comply with applicable protocols and guidelines
  - Utilizes non-invasive study technique as indicated by the examination, according to established facility policy and procedures under state law
  - Notifies the appropriate health provider when immediate treatment is necessary, based on procedural findings and patient conditions
    - Recognizes the need for an urgent report and takes appropriate action
  - Provides a written or oral summary of preliminary findings to the physician

- Patient education and counseling
  - Counsels patients regarding the selection of amplification and assistive listening devices
  - Trains patient and family for home use of the amplification and assistive listening devices

- Infection Prevention
  - Practices consistent hand hygiene
  - Uses personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Maintains current immunization for influenza
  - Complies with isolation precautions

References:
American Academy of Audiology, Scope of Practice