

Adopt Sphec 500 to read as follows:

CHAPTER Sphec 500 ETHICAL STANDARDS

PART Sphec 501 DEFINITIONS

Sphec 501.01 Definitions. The following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)" means the national professional organization of speech-language pathologists and audiologists.

(b) "Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)" means the professional credential issued by the Council for Clinical Certification of ASHA on the basis of successful completion of specified academic requirements, specified practicum requirements, an examination, and specified post-graduate professional experience.

Edit: could just use the acronym "CCC". Also, why is this title capitalized in the definition, but not here? If the title is supposed to be capitalized, then make sure to capitalize throughout the rule. If it the title is not supposed to be capitalized, then need to make the definition lowercase.

PART Sphec 502 SCOPE

Sphec 502.01 Scope.

Edit: change to a comma

(a) The ethical standards in Sphec 503 shall apply to speech-language pathologists, whether or not they hold the certificate of clinical competence; and individuals certified as speech-language assistants.

(b) The ethical standards in Sphec 504 shall apply to audiologists and registered hearing aid dealers.

PART Sphec 503 ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND SPEECH-LANGAUGE ASSISTANTS

Sphec 503.01 Ethical Standards for Speech-Language Pathologists and Speech-Language Assistants. The ethical standards for speech-language pathologists and speech-language assistants shall be the ASHA code of ethics effective March 1, 2023 with the modifications described in Sphec 503.02, available as noted in Appendix II at no cost.

Sphec 503.02 Modifications of the ASHA Code of Ethics. Modifications to the ASHA code of ethics shall be as follows:

- (a) The exclusion of the preamble to the ASHA code of ethics;
- (b) The exclusion of B under Principle of Ethics II; and
- (c) The exclusion of F., G., Q., T., and U. under Principle of Ethics IV.

PART Sphec 504 ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS AND REGISTERED HEARING AID DEALERS

Sphec 504.01 Standards of Conduct. A licensed audiologist or a registered hearing aid dealer shall:

Edit/Unclear: first time this is mentioned in the chapter, may want to clarify that this is the licensing bureau of the OPLC or cite the rule which explains what the licensing board is. For example, "to the licensing bureau described in Sphc XXX.XX"

Edit: comma

(a) Submit only truthful, correct ~~and~~ complete information in any application or other document filed with or statement made to the licensing bureau;

(b) Inform the licensing bureau of a principal business address to which all official board communications should be directed, and also of all addresses where the audiologist or hearing aid dealer is practicing;

(c) Report the establishment of a business address or the change or abandonment of a business address to the licensing bureau within 30 days;

(d) Refrain from revealing information acquired in the course of treating a patient unless the patient consents to the release of the information or the release is ordered by a court;

(e) Offer no assistance to any dishonest practice or scheme such as preparing or verifying reports which support feigned or exaggerated claims of physical disability or the concealment of physical disability, regardless of the purpose for which the report is offered;

Edit: "they are"

(f) Provide each patient with the highest degree of skill and care which he or she is capable, and otherwise maintain the health and welfare of the patient as the paramount objective of their practice;

(g) Continually endeavor to improve their skill and knowledge in the field of audiology or hearing aid dispensing, as appropriate, keep abreast of new developments in the field, and offer the same good quality of care to each patient treated;

Edit: "or"

(h) Report to the licensing bureau persons who might attempt to practice audiology without a license or dispense hearing aids without registration, and otherwise violate the laws or rules pertaining to the practice of audiology or hearing aid dispensing in New Hampshire;

(i) Annually calibrate any and all equipment utilized for the purpose of testing or evaluating a person's hearing. Calibration records shall be retained for a period of 5 years and available to the board upon demand; and

Edit: all the highlighted words need to be lowercase

(j) Comply with the reporting requirements of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services' Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program as outlined in He-P 3008.15 through He-P 3008.18.

Sphc 504.02 Mandatory Medical Referral.

(a) A licensed audiologist or registered hearing aid dealer shall refer a patient to a physician if the audiologist or hearing aid dealer determines by any method that the patient has or might have any of the following conditions:

- (1) Visible congenital or traumatic deformity of the outer ear;
- (2) History of active drainage from the ear within the previous 90 days;
- (3) History of sudden or rapidly progressive hearing loss with the previous 90 days;
- (4) Acute or chronic dizziness;
- (5) Unilateral hearing loss of sudden or recent onset with the previous 90 days;
- (6) Audiometric air-bone gap equal to or greater than 15 decibels at 500Hz, 1000Hz, and 2000Hz;

Edit/Unclear: check citation. He-P 3008.16 is for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) screening of infants, He-P 3008.17 is for reporting the CCHD results, and He-P 3008.18 is for complaints and non-compliance.

(7) Visible evidence of significant cerumen accumulation or a foreign body in the ear canal;
or

(8) Pain or discomfort in the ear.

(b) An audiologist or hearing aid dealer shall have a duty to inquire or otherwise determine whether any of the conditions listed in (a) above are present.

Appendix A

Rule	Statute Implemented
Sphc 501 through Sphc 504	RSA 541-A:7; RSA 328-F:11, II(b)
Sphc 503.02	RSA 541-A:12, VII

Appendix B Incorporation by Reference Information

Rule	Title	Obtain at:
Sphc 503.01	American Speech-Language Hearing Association Code of Ethics Effective March 1, 2023	American Speech-Language Hearing Association Obtain online www.asha.org/policy Cost: None