



HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

**THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SPEECH LANGUAGE
AND HEARING PROFESSIONS**

**GUIDELINES FOR MENTORS
SUPERVISING PRACTITIONERS REGISTERED UNDER
SUPERVISED PRACTICE**

SPEECH THERAPISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines to SLH professionals who require supervision of their clinical practice in order to meet the expected competencies for registration with the HPCSA and their mentors.

2. BACKGROUND

Practitioners who have not practiced the profession for a significant period of time may no longer possess the required competencies. The Professional Board for Speech, Language and Hearing Professions recognises that these practitioners may wish to resume practicing their profession. Supervised practice may therefore be required to guide the practitioner and to protect the public. In order for the Board / Council to ensure that these practitioners meet the requirements for registration in the Independent Practice category (or any other category in which he/she was registered prior to the erasure/ voluntary deregistration registration, the following guidelines are proposed.

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with the procedure relating to the restoration of names to the register of practitioners whose names had been erased from the register for a period of more than three years or more. See document: *Restoration of practitioners who were off the register for more than three years and who have not practised their profession.*

A practitioner whose name has been erased from the register and had not been practising for a period of more than three years will be required to work under supervision for a period equivalent to **six months** (1000 hours). During the period of supervised practice the applicant will not be allowed to be self-employed or practising in his or her own private practice.

3. SUMMARY OF PROCESS

The supervisee will be required to identify and request a suitable supervisor to oversee him or her during the period of supervised practice. For this purpose a signed undertaking would have to be obtained from the supervisor agreeing to undertake the supervision namely the **Undertaking form template 18 B SLH** for completion by the identified supervisor.

On completion of six months' supervised practice, the supervisor will be required to complete and submit the **Supervisor Evaluation Report template Form 18 C SLH**. The findings presented in this report will be reviewed by the Education, Training and Registration Committee.

If the Committee is satisfied by the recommendation of the supervisor, the practitioner will be registered in the category in which the applicant was previously registered.

4. APPOINTING OF SUPERVISOR

The supervisee identifies a supervisor and provides these guidelines to him or her with a view to obtain a written undertaking relating to the period of supervision.

The process is as follows:

- Undertaking by Supervisor Regarding Supervision as outlined on page 2 above is submitted to the Board Administration.
- Period of supervision commences once the Board Administration had confirmed that the supervisor had been approved by the Committee
- Supervised practice is completed for a period of 6 months (or equivalent of 1000 hours).
- Supervisor Evaluation Report (Form 18 C SLH Supervisory Report) is completed by the supervisor and submitted to the Board Administration.
- Form 18 A SLH Supervised Practice Guidelines

5. SELECTION OF SUPERVISOR

The supervisor should be appointed in consultation with other role players at the practice or institution with due cognizance of the work load and responsibilities of the supervisor. The supervisor should be registered with the HPCSA in the same profession and modality (where applicable) as the supervisee.

6. NATURE OF SUPERVISION

The supervisor should be readily available to allow for regular interaction with the candidate and face-to-face contact at least once every week (every month in the case of exceptional circumstances).

As part of the monthly contact between supervisor and supervisee, the supervisor should at least attend two on-site observations of interventions with patients.

7. GUIDELINES FOR THE REPORT

At the end of the stipulated supervised period, the supervising practitioner must generate a report. See attached **Form 18 C SLH Supervised Practice** report template.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. Demonstrate competence and performance in all areas of scope of practice commensurate with registration requirements.
2. Observe health and safety regulations during the provision of clinical services.
3. Evidence based knowledge, skills and attitudes to professionally and ethically assess and manage clients requiring:-
 - a) Speech, language and swallowing services – for Speech therapists.
 - b) Audiology and vestibular services – for Audiologists.

9. COMMUNICATION WITH THE SPEECH LANGUAGE AND HEARING PROFESSIONAL BOARD

All communication should be addressed to:

The Registrar
Professional Board for Speech Language and Hearing Professions
P O Box 205
PRETORIA
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Contact telephone number: (012) 338 3906/3904/3964

Contact person: Ms Abegail Nkosi
Mr Thukela Mazinyo
Ms Mmakgosi Maifadi

Email address: SLHboard@hpcsa.co.za