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THE PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR SPEECH, LANGUAGE AND HEARING PROFESSIONS

ROLE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPIST IN ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH TRACHEOSTOMIES

The Professional Board for Speech Language and Hearing Professions received concerns from clinicians, pertaining to conflicting opinions on the role of the speech-language therapist as it relates to assessment and treatment of patients with tracheostomies.

The Board wishes to advise Speech Therapist that whilst they have an important role in management of patient with tracheostomies in speech language and dysphagia. However, tracheostomy care and caregiver education relating to suctioning, stoma care and changing of the tracheostomy is not within our scope of profession. Therefore, practitioners are encouraged to ensure that they adhere to the relevant scope of profession.

Statement issued by the Professional Boards for and Speech, Language and Hearing Professions.

Protecting the public and guiding the professions

President: Dr TKS Letlape, Vice President: Mr LA Malotana, Acting Registrar/CEO: Dr MA Kwindu