**20:79:04:03.  Supervision of speech-language pathology assistants.** During the first two work weeks of supervising a speech-language pathology assistant, the supervising speech-language pathologist shall observe the speech-language pathology assistant performing direct and indirect services and develop a written supervision plan. The plan must include:

(1)  The date the plan was developed;

(2)  An assessment of the speech-language pathology assistant's skills;

(3)  The frequency, amount, and type of supervision to be provided to maintain the highest quality of services; and

(4)  Signatures of the speech-language pathologist and speech-language pathology assistant.

The supervising speech-language pathologist must complete a written review of the plan at least annually, or more frequently based on the speech-language pathology assistant’s skills, needs of a client, or setting. The speech-language pathologist and speech-language pathology assistant are jointly responsible for ensuring the plan is implemented and for documenting all supervision activities.

The supervising speech-language pathologist shall initiate the first contact with every client and thereafter review data on every client seen by the speech-language pathology assistant every two weeks. The speech-language pathologist shall make direct contact with each client at least once every sixty calendar days.

The supervising speech-language pathologist shall supervise the speech-language pathology assistant when the assistant is serving medically fragile clients. For purposes of this section, the term, medically fragile, includes any client who is acutely ill and in an unstable health condition.

A speech-language pathology assistant may not practice when a supervising speech-language pathologist is not available in-person or by telecommunication technology. If a supervising speech-language pathologist is no longer available to provide appropriate supervision, the speech-language pathology assistant may not perform assigned tasks until a new supervisor, meeting the requirements of SDCL 36-37-20, has been designated. If the supervising speech-language pathologist changes, the new supervising speech-language pathologist shall develop a new written supervision plan and shall consult the previous supervisor to determine the appropriate supervision level based on the speech-language pathology assistant’s knowledge, skills, experience, and demonstrated competency.

If a speech-language pathology assistant has more than one supervising speech-language pathologist, the supervisors must coordinate to collectively meet the requirements of this section.

**Source:** 39 SDR 220, effective June 27, 2013; 50 SDR 23, effective September 3, 2023.

**General Authority:** SDCL 36-37-12.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 36-37-5(3)(c), 36-37-12(15), 36-37-18, 36-37-20.