

D.7: Speech language pathology services

Unit: Disability Services	Effective date: January 12, 2022
Branch: Social Supports	Last updated: January 12, 2022
Policy number: D.7	Review date: January 12, 2024

Purpose

This policy describes the eligibility conditions for clients to access speech language pathology services. The focus of speech language pathology services is on supporting communication and socialization in the home and community.

Disability Services provides access to social communication groups for clients aged 18 or under. The speech language pathologist evaluates a client's suitability for a referral to a social communication program, and may include social communication principles in direct therapy with the client.

The speech language pathologist also works with the Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic team to provide multidisciplinary assessment and diagnosis for autism spectrum disorder.

Policy

1. Disability Services (DS) is committed to principles of early intervention and prioritizes providing speech language pathology (SLP) services to the youngest eligible clients and those who have not yet received DS SLP services, whenever possible.
2. SLP therapy services may be provided as clinically indicated, recommended, and as available within the constraints of demand for services. Conditions addressed include developmental dysarthria, receptive and expressive language disorders, augmentative and alternative communication, and language stimulation.
3. DS' SLP may provide assessment, consultation, or direct therapeutic services, depending on needs of the client.
4. SLP therapy services must be directly related to the client's disability.
5. DS expects that the client's caregiver will be an active participant in the client's SLP therapy program, to maximize benefits to the client.
6. DS prioritizes direct SLP therapy services to clients aged 12 or under.
7. DS may offer clients one social communication group, where clinically indicated and available, for clients aged eight to 18. The SLP determines suitable cohort groups based on age, functional level, and goals of intervention.
8. DS does not provide funding to clients or caregiver to fund private SLP therapy services.
9. Collaboration with a client's school-based support team is encouraged to ensure consistency across the client's environments, but SLP services are not intended to meet the client's formal education or academic development needs.

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10. Disability Services does not offer SLP therapy services to clients eligible for Child Development Centre, Home Care Services, or Whitehorse General Hospital Medical Rehabilitation services, and does not provide feeding or swallowing assessment or treatment.

Definitions

Caregiver(s): A person or persons who are the primary unpaid caregiver(s) of the client and who reside in the same home as the client; they may or may not have legal guardianship over the client.

Client: An individual with a disability who receives services from Disability Services.


Developmental Diagnostic and Support Clinic: A service provided by Disability Services to provide multi-disciplinary assessment and diagnostic services for autism spectrum disorder for school-aged children and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for adults.

Speech language pathology: An allied health profession that treats many types of communication problems, including disorders affecting speech, language, social communication, fluency, voice and resonance, and cognitive-communication.

Social communication group: A group-learning environment for children to learn and practice social skills such as self-awareness, awareness of others, perspective taking, and problem solving.

Authorities

- Health Act (Yukon)
- Financial Administration Act (Yukon)

APPROVED BY:		Director, Social Supports
DATE:	January 12, 2022	