



## PANDEMIC PRACTICE ADVICE 6: ADDITIONAL AND CONTINUED USE OF VIRTUAL CARE

EFFECTIVE: MAY 19, 2020

REVISED – EFFECTIVE:

### **Please consult the website regularly for potential revisions to these documents.**

These Information sheets are intended to help audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to provide in-person patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The information sheets include three different types of information:

- 1) **Requirements** – Legislation, regulations and College standards
- 2) **Principles** – Information from various agencies
- 3) **Suggestions** – Ideas on how to proceed

One of the most effective ways to limit the spread of the Corona virus is to carry out as much patient care as possible via virtual means limiting the time spent face-to-face.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Obtain consent for the use of virtual care as well as for your proposed assessment and treatment plan
- When using virtual care make sure you keep patient's personal health information secure (College COVID-19 [FAQs](#))
- Follow the College's [Position Statement on the Use of Telepractice](#)

### **PRINCIPLES:**

- Carry out as much patient care as possible via virtual means. This may entail using a combination of telephone, virtual care platforms and in-person care with patients (only if required) for different phases of their intervention.
- Virtual care includes the use of technologies such as telephone, real-time video, video conferencing, email, texting, online chat, apps and therapy platforms accessed through computers and mobile devices.

## SUGGESTIONS:

Consider using virtual care for the following:

- Carrying out the consent to treatment and consent to collect, use and disclose personal health information processes – don't forget to document consent in the patient record
- Obtaining a patient case history
- Patient or Substitute Decision Maker (SDM) report regarding progress and areas of concern
- Screening for COVID-19
- Parts of the patient assessment, treatment, counselling, consultation, education

We cannot predict the consequences of the return to work, consequently further guidance may be added or changed. Also, as a self-regulated professional you must always use your professional judgement. The College's [Practice Advice team](#) is here to discuss issues with you.