

**Manual M-2, Professional Services. Part XVIII, Audiology and Speech Pathology Service**

**Chapter 1, Policy and Organization (Paragraphs 1.01 and 1.02)**

This document includes:

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# **Professional Services Audiology and Speech Pathology Service**

July 27, 1982

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DONALD L. CUSTIS, M.D.  
Chief Medical Director

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RESCISSIONS

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1. COMPLETE RESCISSIONS

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## CHAPTER 1. POLICY AND ORGANIZATION

### 1.01 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Audiology and Speech Pathology programs are designed to provide clinical services to patients demonstrating speech, language, and hearing disorders; participate in the training of audiologists and speech pathologists, other allied health personnel, and medical specialists; and conduct research on normal and abnormal aspects of communication. The primary role of the Audiology and Speech Pathology program is patient care. This function includes evaluation, analysis, planning, and delivery of therapy for speech, language, and hearing disorders; consultation at the request of medical and other allied health services; and counseling patients and family members of patients who have communicative disorders. Training activities provide clinical instruction and experience for graduate students in affiliated university Audiology and Speech Pathology programs. Additional educational functions may include instruction of other allied health professionals (including students, interns, residents, and staff). Selected Audiology and Speech Pathology staff members may also participate in the nationwide VA Continuing Education Program by offering workshops for interested VA audiologists and speech pathologists, as well as other personnel who would benefit by attending. Research activity may focus on basic processes of communication and/or any relevant aspect of patient management. Investigations may be conducted within a single Medical Center Audiology and Speech Pathology Service, may be interdisciplinary within a medical center, or may be cooperative among several medical centers and disciplines.

### 1.02 ORGANIZATIONAL PATTERNS

a. **General.** Audiology and Speech Pathology programs are classified in the Allied Health Service category. The organizational placement for an Audiology and Speech Pathology Service within the medical center is under the Chief of Staff. There may be instances when a VA facility will find it is convenient to obtain needed audiology and/or speech pathology services from locally qualified professionals on a fee-basis arrangement for veterans who have been determined eligible for these services. Assistance in verifying the competence of the audiologists and/or speech pathologists being considered for these arrangements should be obtained from the chief of the closest authorized VA Audiology and Speech Pathology Service.

b. **Variety of Programs.** Two types of Audiology and Speech Pathology programs exist in VA health care facilities.

(1) Regional Audiology and Speech Pathology programs provide audiology services for patients from a broad geographic area and are designated this responsibility by the Chief Medical Director. Included in the broad spectrum of services provided by regional clinics are examinations for compensation and pension claims, assessment of social efficiency, hearing aid evaluations and the provision of hearing aids and other supplementary devices associated with hearing health care, special medical-diagnostic evaluations, and aural rehabilitation or audiologic habilitation. These programs typically have more specialized equipment which allows them to provide services not available in many nonregional programs.

(2) Nonregional Audiology and Speech Pathology programs generally provide services for patients from a more restricted geographic area. In many instances, because of limited audiology staff and equipment, these programs usually serve only inpatients and other veterans for whom travel might be a hardship. Veterans who need special procedures which cannot be provided at these clinics are referred to regional programs.

c. **University Affiliation.** University affiliations are established between Audiology and Speech Pathology programs and universities with training programs in communicative disorders following approval by VA Central Office, Office of Academic Affairs. Guidelines obtained through the Office of Academic Affairs (141C) should be used to develop training agreements between the respective university and the VA medical center, to establish and maintain a local Audiology and Speech Pathology Training Committee for the selection and monitoring of trainees, and to assist in the development of a progressive training program.

d. **VA and Community Sharing.** Established Audiology and Speech Pathology programs should be aware of possible sharing arrangements within and outside of the VA system. Sharing opportunities may have also been authorized through public laws. Audiology and speech pathology patient care services may be improved or made more efficient through a sharing of equipment, and/or staff with other VA medical centers, other Federal agencies, or community programs. These sharing arrangements are generally motivated by a desire to provide and/or improve patient referrals and/or treatment, enhance training, or foster collaborative research.

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MESSAGE TO BE TRANSMITTED (Use double spacing and all capital letters)

**TO:**

DIRECTORS, VA HOSPITALS, OUTPATIENT CLINICS AND REGIONAL OFFICES WITH  
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RESTRICT TRANSMISSION TO 59 CHARACTERS PER LINE

00/126 THIS IS INTERIM ISSUE 10-75-47

- A. BASIC ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUE AFFECTED: II 10-66-20
- B. OTHER ISSUES AFFECTED: M-2, PART XVIII (NOT YET PUBLISHED)
- C. REASON FOR ISSUE:

REVISION OF SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES FOR HEARING IMPAIR-  
MENTS REQUIRES APPROPRIATE CHANGE IN PREPARATION OF VAF 10-2464.

D. TEXT OF ISSUE: PARAGRAPH 4.02 IS CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

- ✓ (1) DELETE SUBPARAGRAPH a(4) AND INSERT:

"(4) THE SCHEDULE FOR RATING DISABILITIES HAS BEEN REVISED SO THAT  
AUDIOMETRIC DATA ARE BASED ON ISO/ANSI REFERENCE LEVELS RATHER THAN  
THE OLDER ASA STANDARD. EFFECTIVE JAN. 1, 1976, THE FINDINGS ON VAF  
10-2364 WILL NO LONGER BE INTERPOLATED TO ASA VALUES FOR RATING  
PURPOSES. AS OF THAT DATE, DATA ON VAF 10-2364 WILL BE REPORTED  
DIRECTLY ON VAF 10-2464 SINCE THE SCHEDULE WILL THEN BE APPLIED IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT AUDIOLOGICAL REFERENCE THRESHOLD. AFTER

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TO:

JAN. 1, 1976, NOTE 2 ON VAF 10-2464 SHOULD BE LINED OUT."

✓ (2) DELETE SUBPARAGRAPH k.

E. THIS INTERIM ISSUE WILL NOT BE CONFIRMED BY PRINTED ISSUE.

117/10

*Lawrence V. Joyce, MD*

DEC 23 1975

*B.M. Anderson*  
ANDERIAN:BD

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