Open Referral Policy

Adults and children may be referred to Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres by any source, including physicians, schools, and concerned family members. Adults can call to make appointments without any medical referral.*

* Some exceptions may apply

NSHS Foundation

The Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Foundation’s mandate is to raise public awareness about the work of Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres, and to raise additional funds to support that work.

To volunteer or to make a donation, contact us at:
Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Foundation
1350 Bedford Highway
Suite 5, Bedford, NS B4A 1E1
Phone: (902) 473-1947
Fax: (902) 423-3765
Toll Free: 1-866-278-5678
Email: info@hearingandspeech.ca

The Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres is a program funded by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and is the healthcare agency responsible for hearing and speech services for Nova Scotians. NSHSC provides hearing services to all Nova Scotians and speech and language services to preschool children and adults.

locations in nova scotia

NSHS Foundation

Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres is a multi-site facility accredited by the Canadian Association of Service Programs (CASP), the professional Standards Board of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPM). All clinical staff are certified CASP/PA members.

NSHSC is affiliated with the School of Human Communication Disorders, Dalhousie University. The program provides graduate education for audiologists and speech-language pathologists.

Every person deserves a voice.

Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres

Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres was initially established as the Hard of Hearing and Speech Assessment Clinic in 1963 by a group of interested citizens in Halifax, who felt the need for such a service in their community.

NSHSC has grown to encompass all regions of Nova Scotia and individual centres are located in 24 communities throughout the province.
What is an Audiologist?

Audiologists identify and treat hearing loss and balance disorders. Other clinical services include: counselling, teaching healthcare professionals, research and helping various community groups build awareness and preventative programs. Audiologists also work with other professionals and outside agencies to minimize the effects of hearing loss. They may serve on a wide variety of teams and boards.

There are 23 audiologists working in 15 Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres across Nova Scotia. They all have master's degrees in Audiology and are certified by the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CASLPA).

Who needs an Audiologist?

Several thousand children and adults are seen each year by NSHSC audiologists for difficulties with hearing, balance, or processing sounds. Coping with the effects of a hearing loss can be very stressful. Children with hearing loss may have difficulty learning to read and speak. People may feel alone, confused, angry or frustrated. Their lives may change, and it may limit the activities they can perform at home, work and socially.

Some reasons to visit an audiologist include: ear infections, damage to the ear and diseases of the ear, as well as syndromes associated with hearing loss; noise exposure and family history of hearing loss. Illnesses that may cause hearing loss such as tumors, multiple sclerosis, and stroke or the fitting of a hearing aid may also be reasons to visit. Finally, trouble with a hearing aid, difficulties with balance, problems processing sounds, ringing sounds in the ear, and/or evaluation for a cochlear implant are some other reasons to visit an audiologist.

Audiology Services and Programs

The Department of Audiology at Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres provides a variety of clinical services for hearing loss and related communication disorders.

Full diagnostic and rehabilitation audiological services are available to inpatients and outpatients of all ages. NSHSC audiologists have set standards of care to ensure that all patients receive the same quality of service anywhere in the province.

It is important to know that no one is too young or too old to have a hearing test. Any infant, child, or adult who has trouble hearing, or with their balance, or processing sound should see an audiologist.

What is a Speech-Language Pathologist?

Speech-language pathologists provide clinical services in speech, language (speaking and understanding), voice, swallowing, and non-speech communication (e.g. picture communication, “sign” language, computer devices). Their work also includes prevention, awareness, and early intervention; teaching speech-language pathology interns; and providing workshops and training sessions to families, professionals, and other community groups.

Our speech-language pathologists work in 24 communities across Nova Scotia. They all have master’s degrees in Speech-Language Pathology and are certified by the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

Who needs a Speech-Language Pathologist?

Children with cleft lip or palate, hearing loss, autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, and other conditions affecting physical, intellectual, and psychological development may have difficulties developing normal speech and language skills and, therefore, need the services of a speech-language pathologist. Adults who have had strokes, head injuries, cancer of the mouth or throat, degenerative diseases, voice problems or hearing loss may need speech-language pathology services to deal with swallowing or communication problems.

For all people with communication problems, the impact on their lives can be devastating. Childhood speech and language problems are associated with problems in literacy,