

REGULATORY NEWS – October 2010

The State of New Jersey Audiology And Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee has enacted new regulations expanding audiologists' scope of practice to include cerumen management.

A copy of the new regulations can be found on the web at:

http://www.state.nj.us/oag/ca/aud/NJAC13_44c_7_1a.pdf

Note that there are training requirements that must be met before performing cerumen management. The original proposal would have required observing 30 procedures by a physician, and then 30 physician-supervised procedures, before an audiologist would be allowed to remove cerumen independently.

Through the Association's efforts with our lobbyists, these requirements were changed to a far more reasonable six observations and six supervised cerumen removal procedures before independently performing cerumen management.

Additionally, the original proposal required that the supervision be done only by a physician. The Association recognized that it may be difficult for audiologists in private practice to arrange observation and supervision with physicians. After asserting our position, the new regulations allow that the supervision can be done under another audiologist.

Legislative watch is probably the single most important benefit to members of the Association. We are dedicated to protecting the interests of you, your practice, and the people you serve. As illustrated here, other powerful interests may impose their agendas upon us if we do not remain strong. NJAHHP is the only professional association protecting the interest of all hearing health professionals in New Jersey. **Your support of the Association and HEPAC is key to protecting your interests in Trenton.**