

November 9, 2023

Daniel Rosenthal, PE, Chair of Hearing Care Professionals Technical Review Committee
DHHS Licensure Unit
Attn: Ron Briel, Credentialing Review
PO Box 94986
Lincoln, NE 68509-4986

Subject: Request for Consideration of Credentialing Changes - Nebraska Hearing Society Application

Dear Chairperson Rosenthal and Esteemed Committee Members,

I extend my greetings as a licensed hearing instrument specialist deeply committed to enhancing hearing healthcare services for the expanding community of individuals facing hearing challenges. I urge your favorable consideration for the proposed enhancements to the credentials of Hearing Instrument Specialists (HIS).

The proposed changes aim to empower Nebraska's licensed HIS to deliver comprehensive hearing healthcare services, alleviating the burden on our patients. Eliminating the need for additional medical visits for tasks within our expertise, such as cerumen removal and tinnitus feature adjustments, ensures a more seamless and cost-effective experience for those seeking quality hearing healthcare across our state.

Nationwide, there is no substantial medical basis or evidence of disciplinary actions that justify restricting licensed HIS from providing essential services like cerumen and tinnitus management or conducting tympanometry testing.

Furthermore, our proposal addresses training concerns by mandating licensed HIS to acquire the requisite expertise for tinnitus and cerumen management. Multiple accredited programs exist, and with proper training, these skills should rightfully fall within the scope of practice for licensed HIS in Nebraska.

Emphasizing patient safety as our paramount concern, licensed HIS practitioners adhere to the highest standards. In any instance presenting a potential concern, we cease procedures immediately and refer the patient to an ENT physician (Otolaryngologist). This commitment to best practices remains unwavering, ensuring the continued safety of our clients.

This proposal not only enhances patient convenience but does so without compromising their safety.

I respectfully request your approval of the credentialing review for Nebraska's HIS, a decision that stands to benefit thousands of residents grappling with hearing loss, providing them with more efficient and affordable access to vital hearing healthcare services. Such a move aligns with the principles of sound healthcare policy for Nebraska.

Thank you, Chairman Rosenthal, and esteemed Committee members, for affording me the opportunity to express my perspective on how we, as professionals, can further improve hearing healthcare services for our patients.

For any further discussion on this matter, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Respectfully,

Terry L. Oreskovich JR., HIS
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