



# Emerging Areas of Clinical Practice

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Identifying emerging areas contributes to the vitality and dynamic nature of audiology and speech-language pathology practice. Emerging areas can guide clinical practice, professional education, advocacy, and research.

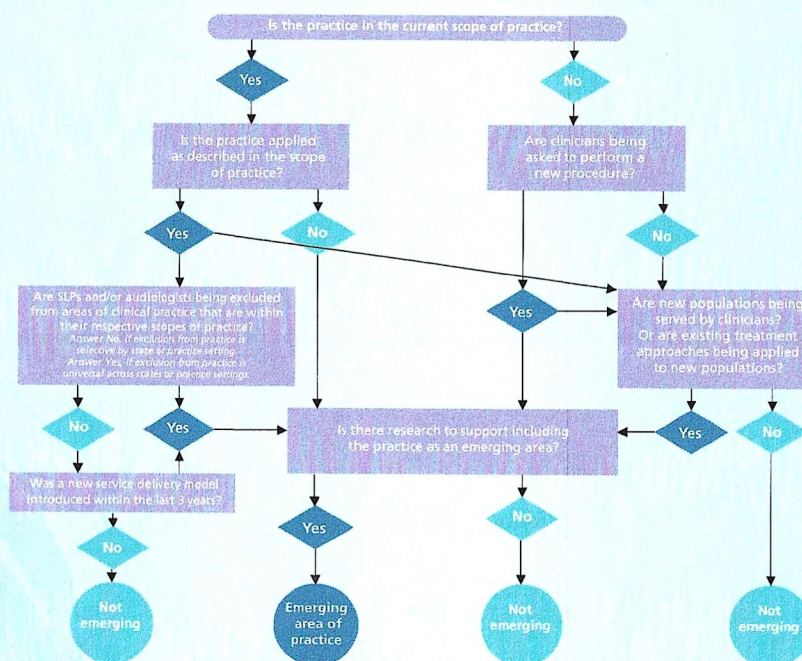
## Systematic Process

1. Use clinical questions to evaluate data sources
2. Follow a flowchart (i.e., decision algorithm) to guide decision-making
3. Review timely and relevant data sources
4. Collect and record information on spreadsheet
5. Review data and make decisions about emerging areas

## Operational Definitions

- **Emerging**—new areas of practice for which clinicians are being asked to perform a new procedure, work with a new population, apply an existing treatment approach to a new population, or use a new service delivery model. The new area may or may not be in the current scope(s) of practice.
- **Expanding**—although not new areas of practice, expanding areas represent practice trends that involve an increasing number of professionals.
- **Nonemerging**—not new areas of practice. These areas were proposed to the team as emerging but the team determined them to be existing areas of practice (neither emerging nor expanding). Additionally, nonemerging areas included novel assessment or treatment approaches that had no known research and very limited use (e.g., mentioned once in one convention program).

## Clinical Questions



## Emerging Areas

### Audiology

- Audiologists to screen for mild traumatic brain injury
- Broadband reflectance
- Caloric stimulation as treatment
- Ear camera
- Genetic screening for hearing loss (HL)
- Hybrid cochlear implantation with new populations of persons with HL (i.e., mild/moderate HL or high frequency HL)
- Otoacoustic emissions for predicting sudden infant death syndrome
- Targeted stimulation after acoustic trauma limiting noise induced hearing loss (animal model)
- Tinnitus treatment protocol (e.g., Neuromonics)

### Dual Interest

- Emergency preparedness—audiologists and SLPs in a new role

### Speech-Language Pathology

- Electrical stimulation for facial weakness from Bell's palsy (SLP programs device)
- Electrical stimulation with implantable electrodes (SLP programs device)
- Enhancing verb meaning (Verb Network Strengthening Treatment)
- Esophageal dysphagia (assessment and treatment)
- High-speed imaging of the larynx
- Otoacoustic emissions screening by SLPs
- Communication support for acquisition of English to international adoptees (without language disorders in native language)
- Transnasal esophagoscopy and pharyngeal/esophageal manometry
- Speech-language pathology services for homeless children

## Report on Emerging Areas of Clinical Practice

<http://www.asha.org/members/phd-faculty-research/reports/EmergingAreasClinicalPractice.htm>