

Subject: Use of the Term Doctor by Audiologist

1 Whereas, audiologists are professionals with Master’s and/or Doctoral degrees in audiology,
2 uniquely educated and trained as independent healthcare providers for services relating to the
3 auditory and vestibular systems, and

4 Whereas, audiologists are licensed as independent practitioners with a defined scope of practice
5 in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, and

6 Whereas, any audiologist who holds the title doctor has earned a clinical doctorate in audiology,
7 (AuD) or doctor of philosophy in audiology and/or hearing sciences (PhD) or other comparable
8 doctoral degree (e.g. ScD) with a focus in hearing sciences and audiology by a recognized
9 accredited institution, and

10 Whereas, audiologists have met clinical training standards and continuing education
11 requirements as defined by state licensure requirements, and

12 Whereas, for any audiologist who has met the above listed criteria, the use of the title “doctor” is
13 appropriate for clinical, instructional, and professional services, and

14 Whereas, the audiologist with a Master’s level degree or a student in the process of obtaining
15 his/her doctorate, will not refer to themselves as doctor, and

16 Whereas, the American Medical Association encourages non-physician healthcare providers
17 using the title “doctor” to identify themselves as a non-physician and define the nature of their
18 degree.

19 **RESOLVED**, audiologists who use the title doctor in advertising or patient communication must
20 use a clarifying title that identifies the type of practice for which he/she is licensed and indicate
21 the field in which they hold the doctorate, such as Dr. Jane Doe, Audiologist or Jane Doe, AuD,
22 Audiologist or Jane Doe, PhD, Audiologist, or Jane Doe, Doctor of Audiology, etc., and

23 **RESOLVED**, the audiologist who holds a doctoral degree in a field **other** than audiology or
24 communication disorders must specify the area in which his/her doctorate is conferred in such a
25 way as to not confuse or mislead the public or misrepresent their practice as having obtained a
26 doctoral degree related to the area in which he/she practices, as in Jane Doe, PhD, doctorate in
27 psychology, and

28 **RESOLVED**, the American Academy of Audiology supports the use of the title doctor for
29 members that have earned doctoral degrees from accredited institutions, with the provision that
30 the audiologist use a clarifying statement to which field they hold their doctorate.

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References:

32 American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (2010). The Use of the Term
33 Doctor in Advertising and Patient Communication. [http://www.entnet.org/Practice/The-Use-of-](http://www.entnet.org/Practice/The-Use-of-the-Term-Doctor-in-Advertising-and-Patient-Communications.cfm)
34 [the-Term-Doctor-in-Advertising-and-Patient-Communications.cfm](http://www.entnet.org/Practice/The-Use-of-the-Term-Doctor-in-Advertising-and-Patient-Communications.cfm)

35 American Academy of Audiology (2005). Statement on Use of the Term Doctor in Advertising,
36 *Audiology Today*, 17 (2).
37 <http://www.audiology.org/resources/documentlibrary/Pages/UseoftheTermDoctor.aspx>

38 Office of the Professions New York State Education Department (2009).
39 [http://officeofprofessions.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1118/kw/doctor/session/L3Rpb](http://officeofprofessions.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1118/kw/doctor/session/L3RpbWUvMTM1NDE0MDg5OS9zaWQvSmRPVmRyY2w%3D)
40 [WUvMTM1NDE0MDg5OS9zaWQvSmRPVmRyY2w%3D](http://officeofprofessions.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1118/kw/doctor/session/L3RpbWUvMTM1NDE0MDg5OS9zaWQvSmRPVmRyY2w%3D)