It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

*Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006*
INTRODUCTION

The theme for these articles is using technology to enhance aural rehabilitation for adults with hearing loss. Manchaiah introduces the issues related to direct-to-consumer hearing devices. Major topics include important definitions, a summary of the literature, and discussion of risks and benefits associated with the use of direct-to-consumer devices by adults with hearing loss. Olson and colleagues summarize current mobile apps for auditory training designed for adult learners. Mobile apps for smartphones and tablets were reviewed for their content, usability, and potential clinical applications as supplements to aural rehabilitation outside of the clinical setting or in lieu of direct service delivery. Leavitt reviews considerations for individualized recommendations of wireless connectivity to link hearing aids or cochlear implants with other devices such as telephones, remote microphones, induction loops, infrared and personal FM systems. The article includes a process for decision-making and documentation of clinical data to support individualized recommendations. In summary, the articles address three areas of technology in aural rehabilitation for adults that are currently evolving and clinically applicable.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- discuss the risks and benefits of direct-to-consumer hearing devices for adults with hearing loss
- describe key aspects related to auditory learning that are present in current mobile apps for auditory training
- identify clinical data that would support the selection of wireless connectivity for adults with hearing aids or cochlear implant