

Private Practice Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What should I consider when starting a private practice?

A. Many resources are available to assist you with ideas and guidelines.

- The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) Private Practice web page is an excellent resource: <http://www.asha.org/slp/ppresources.htm>
- ASHA's web page www.asha.org has an article, "Guide to a successful private practice in speech/language pathology" ASHA publications, 1996.
- Dr. Robert Glaser's article about managing a business on Speech Pathology.com.
- Patricia Fisher's article in OSLHA's newsletter *Communication Matters* (Vol. 40 No. 3)
 - You will need to consider:
 - Rent and utilities (electric, gas telephone)
 - Staff salaries (professional/support)
 - Lawyer/Accountant/Insurance (Liability, Health)
 - Taxes (local, state, federal)
 - Office/treatment supplies (Diagnostic tools, computers, copier)
 - Marketing (web, telephone book, letterhead, etc.)
 - For help and ideas, refer to ASHA: <http://www.asha.org/practice/marketing>
 - Billing and credit card services
 - Continuing Education and Professional Affiliation Costs.

Q. Are there any organizations that provide business support for private practices?

A. Yes, national and state level organizations, like OSLHA or ASHA, provide support for private practitioners. Maintain your membership and contact your representatives when questions arise. There are also a number of mentorship websites available to small businesses:

- www.score.org
- www.sba.gov

Q. Do I need to purchase liability insurance and where?

A. Speech Pathologists and Audiologists practicing in Ohio must have liability insurance. There are several options, including ASHA, OSLHA, and Small Business Associations who offer liability insurance at reasonable rates.

Q. Where do I seek help for writing a business plan?

A. A good course is available at Speech Pathology.com - "Developing a Business Plan for Success" This course highlights what it takes to go into business. You can also, check out these mentor sites for small businesses:

- www.score.org
- www.sba.gov

Q. Where can I find answers to coding questions for billing?

- A.** The following were provided at the 2012 OSLHA Caucus with Bernard Henri, PhD & Patricia Fisher, MA
- ICD-9-CM Codes for SLPs: www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/coding/icd9SLP.htm
 - ICD Home Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd.htm>
 - Questions: e-mail reimbursement@asha.org
 - CPT Codes for SLPs: www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/coding/default.htm
 - Medicare Coding Rules for SLPs (adopted by many private payers):
www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicare/SLP_coding_rules.htm

Q. As a private practitioner, can I bill for Medicaid/Medicare patients?

- A.** Yes, please refer to the following information:
- <http://www.asha.org/practice/reimbursement/medicare/SLPprivatepracticebilling/>

The answers to our FAQ's are heavily reliant on current laws and best practices in the state of Ohio and may be subject to change over time. Please consult the professional practice rep currently serving your work setting if you have questions or concerns about the accuracy of the content in this document.