

HOW TO IDENTIFY A QUALIFIED SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST/THERAPIST?

MANDATORY SRI LANKA MEDICAL COUNCIL (SLMC) REGISTRATION

- Any practicing speech and language pathologist/therapist in Sri Lanka must be registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council (SLMC) as a healthcare professional by law
- Genuine practitioners will gladly provide this. If a practitioner cannot or will not provide an SLMC number, they are not legally registered to practice in the country.

⚠ Beware of short courses: Be highly cautious of individuals claiming to be therapists who only hold short diplomas, 3-month certificates, or general child psychology certificates. These do not qualify someone to practice clinical speech therapy or manage swallowing disorders (dysphagia).

RECOGNISED EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Must hold a formal, university-level degree specifically in the field of Speech and Language Therapy/Pathology. In Sri Lanka, the primary recognised standard is:

- B.Sc. (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy or Speech & Hearing Sciences (commonly awarded by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Kelaniya, which is the pioneering institution for this degree in the country).
- B.Sc. or M.Sc in Speech and Language Therapy, Speech & Hearing Sciences awarded in a foreign country by a recognised university by the University Grant Commission of Sri Lanka.

DIRECT CLINICAL ENVIRONMENT & REFERRAL PATHWAYS

Legitimate professionals operate within transparent healthcare or academic frameworks. You can reliably find them through:

- Government/Teaching Hospitals: Major public hospitals in Sri Lanka employ qualified Speech and Language Pathologists/Therapists within their Neurology, Paediatric and ENT departments.
- University Clinics: The University of Kelaniya's Faculty of Medicine runs specialised speech and language therapy clinics open to the public.
- Private Hospital Channeling: Registered Speech and Language Pathologists/Therapists can be channeled through reputable private hospitals (e.g., Asiri, Durdans, Lanka Hospitals, Nawaloka) using official medical channeling platforms like Doc990 or eChannelling.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITH SRI LANKAN ASSOCIATION OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

- Qualified therapists are typically active members of SLASLP which enforces a strict code of ethics and continuous professional development (CPD).

Check before planning your First Appointment

Before committing to a therapy plan, it is entirely within your rights as a client or parent to clarify the following about the Speech and Language Pathologist/Therapist:

- ✓ Registered with the Sri Lanka Medical Council(SLMC)
- ✓ Minimum qualification as Bachelor's degree in Speech and Language Therapy
- ✓ Experience in paediatric and/or adult communication, swallowing/feeding difficulties
- ✓ Ability to collaborate and correspond with medical and psychological professionals when in need

