Simeon Audita III/Auracast™ Classroom Pilot Project Protocol

Educational Audiology | Hearing Assistive Technology (HAT) Evaluation

1. Purpose

Evaluate the effectiveness, usability, connectivity/quality of Auracast and the classroom benefit of the Simeon Audita III Auracast-enabled soundfield system for students using Auracast-compatible hearing aids or implant processors, such as the Oticon Play SI and Cochlear BAHA 7.

2. Participants and Equipment

- **Participants:** Student, Educational Audiologist, and classroom teacher.
- **Equipment:** Simeon Audita III and the student's compatible hearing devices.
- **Connection methods:** The manufacturer's hearing-device app (e.g., Oticon Companion app) or the Android Auracast menu under Accessibility in Settings.
- **Reference resources:** *Auracast Connection Cheat Sheet* — step-by-step instructions for connecting through the manufacturer's app or Android Accessibility settings.

3. Pilot Procedure

Step 1 — Baseline and Setup

- Document the student's devices, listening concerns, and current HAT arrangements.
- Record the classroom configuration, Audita III placement, and the connection used.
- Provide a phone/tablet as the Auracast Assistant. No cellular service plan is required nor does it need to remain connected to the school's WI-FI. Set a basket on the classroom teacher's desk to keep the phone or tablet accessible.
- Establish that the student can connect to the intended Auracast broadcast and hear the transmitted audio at a comfortable level to their hearing aids or implants.
- Document connection time, assistance required, connection stability, and any pairing or access difficulties.

Step 2 — Classroom Trial

- Use the Audita III during classroom instruction for a defined period (4-6 weeks).

- Include teacher instruction, student questions, peer discussion, and pass-around microphone use where available.
- Record disconnections, adjustments, and changes needed to support reliable access.

Step 3 — HAT Verification Using LIFE-R

- The Educational Audiologist will administer the **Listening Inventory for Education–Revised (LIFE-R)** using the appropriate student and/or teacher assessment forms, following the instrument's instructions.
- Complete a baseline assessment before and a follow-up assessment after the pilot
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Step 4 — Interviews and Feedback
At the end of the trial, conduct separate brief interviews with the Educational Audiologist and classroom teacher.

Educational Audiologist interview:

- Was the Auracast connection straightforward and repeatable?
- Was the connection stable throughout instruction?
- How would you rate speech clarity, loudness, and overall audio quality?
- Were there compatibility issues, technical limitations, or clinical concerns?
- Would you recommend continued use or further testing?

Classroom teacher interview:

- Could the student hear teacher instruction and peer contributions more consistently?
- Was the system easy to use and connect to during routine teaching?
- Were there interruptions, audio-quality concerns, or classroom-management challenges?
- What changes would improve implementation?

4. Outcomes and Evaluation

The Educational Audiologist will summarize:

- Baseline and follow-up LIFE-R results.
- Connection success, reliability, and level of assistance required.
- Teacher and Educational Audiologist interview findings.
- Observed changes in student participation and access to classroom communication.
- Technical issues, recommended adjustments, and overall suitability for continued use.