

Clinical Operations Policy 601

Criteria for Admission for Therapy Services at MSHC

Effective Date: August 18, 2022

Supersedes Date: August 9, 2012

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Policy: Individuals of all ages are eligible for treatment when their ability to communicate and/or swallow is impaired or when there is reason to believe that treatment will prevent the development of a communication or swallowing disorder. The decision to admit an individual to these services must be made in conjunction with the potential Patient and/or the Patient's family or designated guardian, as appropriate.

Procedure:

- I. Eligibility for further assessment and subsequent treatment is indicated if one or more of the following factors are present:
 - a. Referral because of suspected communication or upper aerodigestive disorder from the potential Patient, family member, audiologist, physician, educator, other speech-language pathologist, psychologist, or other allied health professional.
 - b. Failure to pass a screening assessment for communication and/or upper aerodigestive function.
 - c. The potential Patient is unable to communicate functionally or optimally across environments and communication partners.
 - d. The presence of a communication or upper aerodigestive disorder has been verified through an evaluation by a certified speech-language pathologist or audiologist.
 - e. The potential Patient's ability to communicate is not comparable to others of the same chronological age, gender identity, ethnicity, or cultural and linguistic background.
 - f. The potential Patient, family, and/or guardian seeks services to achieve and/or maintain optimal communication (including alternative and augmentative means of communication), and/or upper aerodigestive skills.
 - g. The potential Patient's communication skills negatively affect educational, social, emotional performance, vocation, and/or status of health and safety.
 - h. The potential Patient's swallowing/feeding skills negatively affect their nutritional health or safety status.
 - i. The potential Patient, family, and/or guardian seek services to achieve and/or maintain optimal communication and/or swallowing skills.
 - j. The potential Patient, family, and /or guardian seek services to enhance communication skills.
- II. Procedures for Admission to Therapy/Instruction
 - a. Registration for services is managed by the office staff and entered into the EMR system.
 - b. Patients seen for an evaluation and who wish to be placed on the waiting list for therapy are added to the SLP therapy wait list via the EMR system.
 - c. Patients are offered therapy services based upon the following considerations:

- i. Patient's acuity of condition and need.
- ii. Specific disorder type needed for student training.
- iii. Availability in a particular therapy program.
- iv. Length of time on the waiting list based on the evaluation date.
- v. Patient's availability for open therapy slots.
- vi. When a Patient's schedule is confirmed, the office staff schedules the sessions in the EMR system.