

Guidelines for Referring to Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Services



ADULT HOME HEALTH CARE

Patient's Name: _____ Date: _____

Referring Professional: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Through medical record review, clinical observation, screening, and/or information you have gathered from patients or their families/care partners, determine the answer to each question as YES (y) or NO (n). **If there are one or more YES (y) answers, please refer the patient to SLP.**

General Medical Status		
Has there been a recent observed or reported change in the individual's independence as it relates to thinking, communication, language, speech, and/or swallowing?	y	n
Does the individual have an observed or reported history of chronic respiratory illness?	y	n
Does the individual have an observed or reported history of recent weight loss, or does the individual have a recently placed feeding tube or alternate means of nutrition?	y	n
Does the individual have a tracheostomy tube, have a laryngectomy stoma, or need a ventilator to breathe?	y	n
Swallowing Deficits		
Does the individual lose food and/or liquid out of their mouth when eating or drinking?	y	n
Does the individual pocket food, liquids, and/or pills?	y	n
Does the individual cough or choke when eating and/or drinking, or when taking pills?	y	n
Does the individual complain of pain when swallowing?	y	n
Does the individual need modified food or liquid consistencies due to difficulty swallowing?	y	n
Cognitive-Communication Deficits		
Since the individual's most recent illness, do they have difficulty completing routine tasks to function in the current environment as a result of changes in thinking, communication, and reading and writing skills?	y	n
Does the individual have difficulty recognizing familiar people or remembering personal information or daily events?	y	n
Does the individual have difficulty communicating wants and needs adequately?	y	n
Does the individual have difficulty following commands to complete necessary tasks?	y	n
Does the individual have difficulty speaking clearly enough to be understood by an unfamiliar person?	y	n

This tool is to be used as a guide for determining the need for referral of an adult to speech-language pathology services (SLP) in the home health care setting. Please note that this is a referral tool only. It is to be used by non-SLP providers to determine the necessary SLP follow-up services. It is not to take the place of a comprehensive assessment of thinking, language, speech, or swallowing.