



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Communication Disorders Department Policy and Procedure

**SUBJECT: AMOUNT AND TYPE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGY TREATMENT**

**Policy No.: 509
Supersedes: May 1991
Revision Date: June, 2022
Page: 1 of 2**

PURPOSE

To define the guidelines for determining amount and type of speech-language pathology treatment provided.

POLICY

The speech-language pathologist has the responsibility for recommending the plan of care which includes the type, amount, and duration of treatment a patient will receive for areas within the established scope of practice.

PROCEDURES

Based on evaluation results, the speech-language pathologist will determine whether a patient will be placed on treatment program.

1. **No program:**

A program will not be recommended when evaluation results indicate that:

1. the patient's communication and swallowing skills are within functional limits, or
2. the identified deficits appear unlikely to respond to currently available treatment regimens. This judgment will be based on the best available clinical practice and research evidence related to the patient's diagnosis and communication or swallowing disorder. The rationale for this recommendation will be discussed with the referring physician, patient and family. Appropriate referrals for second opinion evaluations or alternative treatment, such as counseling, may be provided.

2. **Treatment Program:**

The amount, frequency and duration of treatment will be based on the patient's communication diagnosis, goals, prognosis, and projected or demonstrated ability to benefit from treatment. The patient's medical status and need for interdisciplinary treatment coordination will also be considered in program design.

3. Consultation with family/team:

Patients who do not require a complete treatment program may receive more limited services to meet specific needs. This may include periodic monitoring of progress, family training session, and/or consultation with other team members. Speech-language pathologists may follow patients' progress in weekly team conferences or other formal or informal contacts.

4. Waiting List:

An outpatient may be placed on a waiting list if a program is indicated but cannot be provided due to short term staffing limitations.

Outpatients who are placed on a waiting list may be provided with referrals for other appropriate treatment alternatives (See Policy 513, Priorities for Provision of Services).