



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

Communication Disorders Department Policy and Procedure

**SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH SWALLOWING
AND/OR COMMUNICATION DISORDERS**

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PURPOSE

To outline the policy for identifying patients with communication and/or swallowing disorders.

POLICY

The Communication Disorders Department responds to orders written by physicians, or other Licensed Independent Practitioners, in accordance with California state regulations and the Policies and Procedures of RLANRC.

PROCEDURES

1. The speech-language pathologist uses standardized and/or nonstandardized methods to screen oral motor function, speech production and swallowing skills, comprehension and production of spoken and written language, and cognitive aspects of communication. Services are sensitive to cultural and linguistic diversity. Evaluation addresses impairments of body structures/functions, impact on activities/participation, and contextual factors affecting communication
2. The speech-language pathologist will identify all patients with communication and/or swallowing disorders within their assigned area of responsibility by performing evaluations in response to orders and making appropriate recommendations regarding the person's need for further assessment or referrals for other examinations or services.
3. Information gathered by the speech-language pathologist from an evaluation will be documented and recorded in the patient's medical record. See Communication Disorders Department Policy - Documentation Timelines for Speech Pathology.

Source: ASHA, Preferred Practice Patterns for the Profession of Speech - Language Pathology, November 2004.