



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## Communication Disorders Department Policy and Procedure

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**SUBJECT: SCOPE OF SERVICE**

**Policy No.: 111**  
**Supersedes: January 2000**  
**Revision Date: July 2022**  
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### **Purpose:**

To outline the scope of service of the Communication Disorders Department.

### **POLICY:**

Persons served:

The Communication Disorders Department provides speech-language pathology and audiology services to inpatients and outpatients with known or suspected speech, language, voice, hearing, cognitive-communication and/or swallowing disorders. Communication and swallowing disorders may be caused by or accompany a wide range of conditions and diagnoses, including, but not limited to:

1. brain injury
2. stroke
3. spinal injury
4. congenital defects
5. dementia
6. craniofacial anomalies
7. developmental disabilities
8. learning disabilities
9. progressive and nonprogressive neurological disorders
10. disorders of aerodigestive tract function
11. pharyngeal/laryngeal anomalies
12. genetic disorders
13. burns/plastic surgery
14. pathology of the outer, middle, or inner ear
15. retro cochlear pathology
16. vestibular disorders

Services are provided to pediatric, adolescent, adult and geriatric patients, on the basis of clinical indicators and without regard for race, gender, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation or disabling conditions.

All professional services are provided by Speech-Language Pathologists or Audiologists who are licensed by the California Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology & Hearing Aid Dispensers Board and hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) or are Clinical Fellows who are supervised according to state and ASHA regulations. In addition, clinicians must demonstrate competencies in each area of clinical practice as defined by departmental policy and procedure.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1990

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

REVIEWED: July 2022

Signature(s) on File.

## PROCEDURES:

### 1. Speech-Language Pathology

- a. Speech/language pathology services are performed in response to physician orders. The following evaluation procedures are performed:
  1. Clinical Swallowing Evaluation
  2. Videofluoroscopic Evaluation of Swallowing
  3. Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES)
  4. Comprehensive Cognitive-Communication Evaluation
  5. Augmentative/Alternative Communication Evaluation
  6. Video Laryngostroboscopy Study (VLS)
- b. Speech-language therapy services are provided based on a treatment plan cooperatively developed by the speech-language pathologist and the patient/family/caregiver and reviewed and approved by the referring physician. This treatment plan outlines the frequency, intensity and duration of the services to be provided, goals of the treatment and prognostic statement regarding expected outcomes, based on clinical indicators described in the evaluation. Treatment may be provided in individual and/or group settings and may address the following:
  1. alternative/augmentative communication skills
  2. cognitive-communication skills
  3. language skills
  4. motor speech
  5. voice
  7. fluency
  8. swallowing
  9. patient/caregiver education
- c. Referrals for outpatient speech pathology services are received from inpatient acute and rehabilitation as well as from ambulatory care clinics and community referral sources.
- d. Location of services:  
Inpatient services are provided in the Jacquelin Perry Institute Building. Outpatient services are provided in the Outpatient Building and the Center for Applied Rehabilitation Technology (CART).
- e. Hours of service:  
Speech-language pathology services are available for inpatients from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Saturday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. A speech pathologist is available on call back for evaluations of patients who must be evaluated on Sunday. Outpatient services are offered Monday through Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

### 2. **Audiology**

- a. The following audiological procedures are performed in response to physician orders:
  1. audiologic screening
  2. diagnostic audiologic evaluation

3. evaluation of middle ear function
  4. auditory evoked potential evaluations
  5. hearing aid evaluation
  6. hearing aid orientation/aural rehabilitation
  7. electronystagmography
  8. patient/care giver education
- b. Referrals:  
Audiology receives referrals from providers and speech pathologists in inpatient and outpatient as well as from other providers in DHS ambulatory care clinics and from community sources.
- c. Location of Services:  
Audiological evaluations are performed in the Outpatient Building. For inpatients who cannot be transported to that location, hearing screenings may be performed at bedside.
- d. Hours of service:  
Audiology services are available for inpatients and outpatients from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.