Speech Language Therapy:

Speech Language therapy is that service which is necessary for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of speech, language, voice and/or cognitive disorders which result in communication difficulties, or possible swallowing disorders such as dysphagia.

Speech therapy services shall include, but not be limited to:

- Evaluation and re-evaluation of patients with speech, swallowing, cognitive, voice or language disorders.

- Assisting the physician in determining and recommending appropriate speech and hearing services (if applicable) and in the development and renewal of the physician's plan of care

- Providing habilitative and rehabilitative services for speech, swallowing, voice, cognitive and language disorders

- Recording and reporting to the physician the patient's reaction to treatment and any changes in the patient's condition

- Instructing other health team and family members in the home rehabilitation program

- Development, implementation, review and revision of the plan of care and documenting clinical and progress notes, summaries, and other documentation for the clinical record

- Participation in case conferences, staff meetings, and in-service programs as indicated

- Supervision of speech language therapy assistants

The speech language pathologist makes an evaluation visit as ordered by the physician, and then follow up with the physician for further instructions for care. Orders received by telephone must be written at the time they are received.

Evaluation of speech and language skills should be considered on all patients having a diagnosis of CVA, laryngectomy, language and developmental delays in children, head injury, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, multiple sclerosis, and neurological disorders involving communication problems. Evaluations will vary depending on diagnosis, and may include as appropriate:

- History

- Auditory and visual comprehension
- Examination of oral peripheral mechanism

- Speech intelligibility

- Language expression and comprehension

- Fluency of speech

- Vocal parameters

- Equipment needs, such as speech generating device

- Swallowing

- Cognition/memory

- Safety issues related to patient’s ability to recall and process safety information

The speech language pathologist provides direct treatment to those patients requiring such treatment, counsels with family and patients, and confers and instructs other health workers in the performance of selective treatment procedures in the home as appropriate.

Cross Reference: __________________________________________________________

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