



Job Title: Speech Therapist	Classification: Per Diem
Reports to: Area Manager / Home Health Operations	Date: 6/14 Updated 2/17

Position Overview:

Responsible for assessments and treatments of speech and language disorders, including development, mental, and organic involvement.

Principal Duties:

- Provides services in speech pathology or audiology in accordance with the physician's plan of treatment. Accepts only clients referred by the Area Manager coordinator or designee. Demonstrates competency in the skills required by the agency on at least a biannual basis.
- Assists the physician in assessing the client's level of functioning and the development (and revision, as necessary) of the plan of care by applying appropriate tests for speech, hearing and language disorders.
- Records/ reports the client's reaction to treatment and any changes in condition to the physician and/or client care/case manager.
- Instructs and advises the client, family and other health team personnel in the phases of speech pathology in which they may assist the client.
- Recommends hearing tests by audiologist/ checks hearing aids as needed.
- Assesses client's communication, oral-motor integrity, cognitive status, memory/ problem solving, hearing and speech fluency and quality.
- Cooperates and consults with appropriate staff to provide staff education when requested and arranged by the client care manager.
- Evaluates, and regularly reevaluates, the speech pathology needs of the client; initiates, develops, implements and makes necessary revisions to the client's plan of care. Assesses the client's continual care needs. Includes all problems identified in the assessment in the plan of care or documents rationale for not doing so.
- Initiates diagnostic, preventive and rehabilitative procedures as appropriate to the client's care and safety. Makes referrals to other disciplines as indicated by the needs of the client or documents rationale for not doing so.
- Observes signs/ symptoms and reports changes in the client condition to the physician and/or other appropriate health professionals as needed.
- Teaches, supervises and counsels the client and family regarding home procedures and other care needs as appropriate to the client's condition.
- Utilizes agency educational material as appropriate.

- **Coordinates the total plan of care and maintains continuity of client care by liaisons with other health professionals. Attends client care conferences. Initiates client care conferences for complex and/or multidisciplinary clients when needed or helpful to ensure good coordination of care.**
- **Develops, prepares and maintains individualized client care progress records with accuracy, timeliness and according to policies.**
- **Participates in the quality improvement program of the agency.**
- **Keeps abreast of speech pathology trends and knowledge.**
- **Participates in in-service programs.**

Qualifications and Skills:

- **Holds a certificate of clinical competence and licensure granted by the American Speech and Hearing Association.**
- **Demonstrated knowledge and skills necessary to provide care to and communicate with primarily the geriatric population, and to a lesser degree, the pediatric and adult populations.**
- **Demonstrated knowledge of the principles of growth and development over the life span.**
- **Able to assess data reflecting the client's status and interpret the appropriate information needed to identify each client's requirements relative to their age-specific needs.**

Physical Demands/Environment:

- **Must be able to adapt to client's status and needs.**
- **Potential infectious diseases and unsafe neighborhoods.**