



<p>Team Name: Rehabilitation Services</p> <p>Team Lead: Director - Rehabilitation</p> <p>Approved by: Regional Lead – Community &amp; Continuing Care</p>	<p>Reference Number: CLI.6310.PL.003</p> <p>Program Area: Rehabilitation Services</p> <p>Policy Section: General</p>
<p>Issue Date: October 3, 2022</p> <p>Review Date:</p> <p>Revision Date:</p>	<p>Subject: Tracheostomy Patient Care and Speech-Language Pathology Services</p>

*Use of pre-printed documents: Users are to refer to the electronic version of this document located on the Southern Health-Santé Sud Health Provider Site to ensure the most current document is consulted.*

**STANDARD POLICY SUBJECT:**

Tracheostomy Patient Care and Speech-Language Pathology Services

**PURPOSE:**

To define the scope of Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) services available within the Southern Health Santé Sud (SH-SS) program for patients who have tracheostomies.

**IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

- SLPs working in Manitoba must possess a current *Advanced Competency Certificate in Swallowing and Voice Restoration Through the Use of Tracheostomy Tubes and Speaking Valves* to work with patients who have a tracheostomy to address swallowing and voice/speech concerns.
- Currently, the volume of patients with a tracheostomy within SH-SS would be insufficient for SH-SS SLP’s to acquire a clinical competency certificate for this patient population.
- Prior to repatriation or transfer of inpatients with tracheostomies requiring SLP services to SH-SS, bed utilization coordinators/SH-SS staff are encouraged to discuss level of service required with rehab services.
- SLP with the advanced competency certificate may provide the following services for patients with a tracheostomy within an interdisciplinary team approach (ie Respiratory Therapist, physician):
  - Clinical swallowing assessment
  - Speaking valve training and use
  - Video Fluoroscopic Swallow Study
  - Consultation in regard to the tracheostomy weaning process

- SLP without the advanced competency certificate may provide the following services for patients with a tracheostomy:
  - Triage tracheostomy referrals to determine service needs
  - Address alternative/augmentative communication needs as appropriate and as resources allow
  - Address swallowing and reintroduction to oral feeds once a patient's tracheostomy has been removed

**PROCEDURE:**

1. SLP will prioritize and triage referrals received for patients with tracheostomies to determine whether services can be provided locally by accessing the Clinical Decision Algorithm for Patients with Tracheostomy Referred for Speech-Language Pathology Services (CLI.6310.PL.003.SD.01).
2. Should services required be beyond the capacity of the SLP program within SH-SS, the SLP referral will be directed to a program within the WRHA who can provide this service.
3. Patients who are clients of Cancer Care and whose tracheostomies are related to cancer diagnosis and treatment should be referred to the SLP at Cancer Care Manitoba.
4. All other patients who require tracheostomy related services beyond the capacities of our program as outlined above, will be referred to:
  - Deer Lodge Centre, Central Intake  
Phone: 204-831-2526  
Fax: 204-831-2953
  - Referral information should include: Deer Lodge referral form, MB Diagnostic Imaging referral form and any pertinent background medical information

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

[CLI.6310.PL.003.SD.01](#) Clinical Decision Algorithm for Patients with Tracheostomy Referred for Speech-Language Pathology Services

**REFERENCES:**

College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Manitoba (CASLPM)  
Deer Lodge Communications referral form  
Manitoba Diagnostic Imaging referral form