

Continuum of Care

Setting	Medical Goals	Role of SLP		
		Typical Referrals	Communication	Swallowing
Intensive Care	Life preservation Differential diagnosis Medical stabilization Duration (1-5 days)	stroke head injury laryngectomy (SICU) prematurity (NICU)	establish communication system yes/no aug communication (artificial larynx, tracheostomy speech, alphabet board) provide communication diagnosis on-going assessment	assess swallowing function provide diet recommendations on-going assessment
Acute Care	Differential diagnosis when illness is not life-threatening Pre and post-surgical care "Cure" Duration (1-7 days)	stroke head injury degenerative disease pneumonia head and neck cancer	differential diagnosis immediate recommendations communication strategies for partners, care staff communication system patient and family education on-going assessment initiate treatment as indicated discharge planning	assessment management compensations positioning diet other treatment patient and family education on-going assessment
Inpatient (acute) Rehabilitation	restore function health maintenance duration (10-28 days)	stroke head injury tumor	reassessment treatment intense (often twice daily) functional often vocation related often includes group and/or multidisciplinary sessions team management discharge planning	reassessment treatment impairment & activity level goal is return to "normal" often group treatment during meals

Setting	Medical Goals	Role of SLP		
		Typical Referrals	Communication	Swallowing
Day Rehabilitation	<p>same as inpatient rehab, but patient does not reside at facility</p> <p>restore function health maintenance duration (10-60 days)</p>	<p>stroke head injury tumor</p>	<p>reassessment treatment intense (often twice daily) functional often vocation related often includes group and/or multidisciplinary sessions may involve outings to recreational and vocational settings team management discharge planning</p>	<p>reassessment treatment impairment & activity level goal is return to "normal" often group treatment during meals</p>
Skilled Nursing Facility	<p>medical stability secondarily, restore function duration (10-28 days)</p>	<p>stroke pneumonia degenerative disease</p>	<p>reassessment treatment establish communication system initiate treatment as indicated plan for future disability discharge planning family education</p>	<p>reassessment treatment establish safe eating plan initiate treatment as indicated plan for future disability family education</p>
Long Term Care	<p>medical stability care until death duration (months to years)</p>	<p>dementia stroke degenerative disease</p>	<p>assessment direct treatment generally indicated only in the event of acute illness (new stroke) change in status establish communication system staff training</p>	<p>assessment management often limited to compensatory strategies dining programs are common staff training</p>

Setting	Medical Goals	Role of SLP		
		Typical Referrals	Communication	Swallowing
Home Health	maintenance of medical treatment regain function duration (14 to 30 days)	CVA pneumonia laryngectomy	assessment treatment establish functional communication system instruction in augmentative systems trach speaking valves electrolarynges voice prostheses direct treatment	assessment treatment compensatory techniques therapeutic techniques patient and family education
Justification for home-bound status: cannot leave home unattended (patient requires supervision), maximum assistance needed for ambulation or transfer, medically restricted to bed or chair, poor endurance, SOB, skin breakdown, feeding tubes, leaves home only occasionally and then with maximum assistance				
Outpatient	restore function duration (4-12 weeks)	patients d/c'ed from rehab or acute care CVA TBI voice early onset degenerative disease	assessment differential diagnosis assessment of recovery to date treatment direct treatment functional goals involve family vocation oriented	assessment treatment compensation therapeutic techniques