

# CancerCare Manitoba (CCMB) Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) Program Description

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Outpatient adult SLP service is provided to patients 18 years of age or older. This service includes the assessment and management of effects of surgical, chemotherapy or radiation treatment (acute and late) on speech, swallowing, voice, communication and functional status. This service may be provided before, during and after treatment.

## REFERRAL CRITERIA

- patients with diagnosis of head and neck cancer (includes pre, on and post treatment) – current or remote
- patients with a history of cancer whose swallowing, speech, voice, communication issues may be related to cancer or treatment e.g., patients who have had surgery and/or radiation to the head and upper body (neck, thorax, esophagus)
- referrals are accepted from all CCMB care providers
- referrals from non CCMB care providers (including physician, NP, nurse, SLP, dietitian, or other allied health providers) may be accepted on a case-by-case basis
- self-referrals will be accepted on a case-by-case basis if patient is/ has been under the care of a CCMB physician or seen by CCMB SLP
- *Referrals for cancer patients with known neuromuscular disorders as the primary cause of speech, voice or swallowing difficulties are excluded (i.e., MS, ALS, stroke)*

## SERVICES

Services are provided for **active treatment support, late effects of treatment, dysphagia, speech, voice, and cognitive communication.**

- **Screening.** This may be completed via telephone, virtually or in-person. If results of the screening indicate that comprehensive assessment is not warranted, no further services will be provided.
- **Clinical assessment.** This may be conducted virtually or in-person.
- **Treatment.** This may be provided virtually or in-person. Telephone may be considered, depending on the nature of the treatment program. Length and intensity of treatment may vary dependent upon clinical treatment protocol.
- **Re-assessment.** This will occur as determined by the SLP based on treatment protocols
- **Discharge.** Patients will be discharged from service when either:
  - they have completed treatment programs
  - treatment goals have been achieved
  - the SLP no longer anticipates further change in status, or continuing SLP services will not change prognosis/outcome
  - client is not a candidate for treatment
  - client declines further services
  - client does not comply with treatment recommendations/plans
  - client does not adhere to attendance policy (*Procedures for Patients Who Fail to Attend Scheduled Appointments*)
- **Transition to Community.** Symptoms monitoring/management and follow up documentation will be provided to patient and primary care provider.
- **Documentation.** All patient or patient related interactions (in person, telephone or virtual contact) will be documented in the progress notes of patients' ARIA chart.