Practice Considerations for Older Adults With Dysphagia

INTRODUCTION

This course includes three recorded sessions from the 2017 online conference “Dysphagia in Older Adults.” These sessions focus on important topics – including oral hygiene, delirium, and the relationship between dysphagia and dementia as well as other diseases – for clinicians who work with older adults with swallowing problems. The conference included a total of 13 sessions, with the broad goal of giving clinicians new, evidence-based strategies for improving overall quality of life for older adults.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

You will be able to:

- describe three changes in pulmonary function that naturally occur in normal aging and apply them to dysphagia assessment observations of older patients
- describe the criteria that help differentiate delirium from dementia and other chronic cognitive change
- select and utilize assessment measures – and state the benefits of these measures – that consider stage of dementia, oral and pharyngeal phase swallowing, compensatory techniques, environmental modifications, ability to sustain nutrition and hydration needs, and quality of life

CONTENTS

- *Physiologic Changes and Interactions with Disease in Older Adults*, by James L. Coyle, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-S
- *Recognizing Delirium in Individuals Who Are Medically Ill*, by Kevin Patterson, MD
- *Swallowing, Cognition, and Dignity: A Clinical Pathway for Dysphagia Management in Persons With Dementia*, by Michelle Tristani, MS, CCC-SLP

PROGRAM HISTORY AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Online conference dates:** May 3–15, 2017; November 29–December 11, 2017

**End date:** May 4, 2020

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the learning assessment on or before **May 4, 2020**.

To see if this program has been renewed after this date, please search by title in ASHA’s online store at [www.asha.org/shop](http://www.asha.org/shop).
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This course is offered for 0.35 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

STATEMENT ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

It is the position of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that audiologists and speech-language pathologists incorporate the principles of evidence-based practice in clinical decision making to provide high-quality clinical care. The term evidence-based practice refers to an approach in which current, high-quality research evidence is integrated with practitioner expertise and client preferences and values into the process of making clinical decisions.

Participants are encouraged to actively seek and critically evaluate the evidence basis for clinical procedures presented in this and other educational programs.

*Adopted by the Scientific and Professional Education Board, April 2006*