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# Perspectives of the ASHA Special Interest Groups *Perspectives*, SIG 15, Vol. 3, Part 1, 2018

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### EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

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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*

## INTRODUCTION

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Authors discuss speech-language pathology rehabilitation and management for older adults with autism in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), including a general discussion of the history of health care change in the nursing home industry, as well as a history of autism and aging. Discussion targets the care of residents with autism in the SNF, given what is known about aging with autism and this care setting. Throughout, data from caregiver interviews and a survey of speech-language pathologists in the United States will be shared and discussed in relation to the challenges of autism in the SNF. The second group of authors discuss dysphagia evaluation and management, including the need for a multidisciplinary team effort that is based on history, differentiation of presbyphagia from oropharyngeal and esophageal dysphagia, identifying the underlying cause, ascertaining the degree of risk or presence of silent or overt aspiration, defining the patient's abilities and impairments, and the degree to which the impairments can be improved with therapy. Authors discuss the need for clinicians to increase their awareness of what is normal as the patient gets older to identify problems earlier and to prevent decline.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

*You will be able to:*

- list 3 challenges to working with older adults with autism in the skilled nursing facility
- explain key differences between presbyphagia and dysphagia

## PROGRAM HISTORY

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Start date: October 22, 2018  
Available through: October 20, 2021

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the test with a passing score on or before **October 20, 2021**.

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)



ASHA Professional Development is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for 0.10 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).