

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**May 30: Austin, Texas**

*Dysphagia Scene Investigators;*  
6.0 CEUs. Call 1-866-275-6277  
to reserve your seat. \$60.00 for  
Professional Imaging clients.

Please take time to come  
and learn with Professional  
Imaging. We welcome any  
suggestions you may have for  
conferences related to  
dysphagia and the care of our  
long-term care residences.

For more information, visit  
our website to download  
conference flyers and more.  
[www.mbssonline.com/pi](http://www.mbssonline.com/pi)

Professional Imaging  
will be closed on  
Monday, May 25 in  
observance of  
**MEMORIAL DAY!**

Happy Better  
Hearing and Speech  
Month to all Speech  
Language  
Pathologists. We  
really appreciate all  
you do for your  
patients!

### ETHICS REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE LICENSE RENEWAL

#### Texas State Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology:

##### Extension of the Two Hour Ethics

**Requirement** — At the February 27th board meeting the board members voted to extend the grace period for the ethics CEU requirement through December 31, 2009. Licensees who renew between May 2009 and December 2009 will have until December 31, 2009 to acquire the two clock hours in ethics for the previous renewal period, if they have not done so by the month of their renewal. These clock hours in ethics earned during the grace period will not count toward the ethics requirement for their next renewal in 2011.

Professional Imaging is planning to offer an ethics course before the end of the year. [Look for more information about this in upcoming newsletters and on our website at \[www.mbssonline.com/pi\]\(http://www.mbssonline.com/pi\).](#)

#### When Home is Where the Swallow Is

At Professional Imaging, we receive many calls from therapists asking if we service **home health patients**. The answer is "Absolutely!" Many families choose to step in as caregivers in order to allow their loved one to remain at home. The need for diagnosis and treatment for dysphagia is not limited to nursing home patients. To be sure, the number of elderly persons with dysphagia who are cared for at home is up to three times greater than in nursing homes!<sup>1</sup>

Professional Imaging does not overlook the needs of these patients. In fact, home health patients currently make up about about 10% of our total number of studies. The great part about home health is that the agency is not the middle man, as it is with nursing facilities. No contracts are required and the home health agency NEVER receives a bill.

<sup>1</sup> Karen Stevenson, "Home or Nursing Home?," *ElderWeb*, 8 March 2006, <http://www.elderweb.com/home/node/901>.

The process for requesting and scheduling a MBSS for home health patients is almost the same as nursing facility patients:

- 1) Obtain a physician order
- 2) Complete a Home Health Intake Form: Be sure to provide the address and phone number of the patient to be seen, NOT the home health agency. This form can be downloaded from our website at [www.mbssonline.com/pi](http://www.mbssonline.com/pi).
- 3) Provide patient's health insurance information: A face sheet is preferred, but you can also send a copy of the patient's insurance card(s).
- 4) Fax all of this information to 1-877-676-6277

If any questions call Piper Harris, MA, CCC-SLP at 832-563-7464.

#### Scheduling the Dysphagia Consultation including MBSS at the facility and/or home of a patient

Professional Imaging sees around 50-60 patients a day in five regions in Texas—Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Northeast Texas, South Coast, and The Valley respectively. In each region, our mobile clinics are dispatched daily with a doctor, SLP, and driver.

Mapping software is used to see patients that are consulted as quickly and efficiently as possible. There are times that our time does not work out with the time that you will be able to physically attend the MBSS. This is one of the benefits of, and reasons for, providing a VHS or DVD video of each study. We encourage you to use this to your advantage.

We must see all the patients we need to see that day or it can displace other patients or postpone the patient care. Use the Intake Form to communicate any special requirements to our team. We have to work efficiently to make sure we are meeting our clinical obligation of seeing patients within 24 to 72 hours 95% of the time.

You can also call and consult with our team members by phone if you cannot be present with any additional information. You can call our office for their phone numbers or ask them for a business card! Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we grow!

