

THE Professional Imaging

September 2009

UPCOMING ETHICS CONFERENCES IN YOUR AREA

A Round Table

Discussion: Ethics and Clinical Decision Making in a Long-Term Care Setting from the SLP and Physician Perspective

9am-12pm, 3.0 hours of
TSHA CEUs. See enclosed
flier for registration form,
also located on our website:
www.mbsonline.com/pi

Houston: October 3

Austin: October 17

San Antonio: October 24

Tyler: November 7

McAllen: November 14

Corpus Christi: December 5

Professional Imaging will be
closed on the following
days in the upcoming
months. Please plan your
consults around these
dates.

Monday, Sep 7: Labor Day

Friday, Oct 9: Internal CEU
conference for all PI SLPs

Thursday, Nov 26:

Thanksgiving

Friday, Dec 25: Christmas

CRICOPHARYNGEAL (CP) DYSFUNCTION

As a practice we are identifying more and more cricopharyngeal dysfunction and using differential diagnosis to determine the best treatment plan. Here is some background info about CP dysfunction:

CP dysfunction can result from 1. failure of the CP or UES to relax, which keeps the larynx from lifting and moving forward, 2. reduced laryngeal motion up/forward, 3. poor pressure to drive the bolus through the sphincter and widen the opening. We must determine which of these factors is the cause from the MBSS before we recommend intervention, as the intervention is different for each reason.

Logemann also states that a dilatation is not helpful for CP dysfunction, unless there is scar tissue which restricts laryngeal movement. She states that the CP Myotomy is the recommended intervention if the factor is truly a spasm of the CP muscle. She further states that CP dysfunction is most often caused by reduced laryngeal movement with unilateral weakness, in which case the Mendelsohn and head rotation to the weaker side may be most beneficial. Recommendations to improve CP dysfunctions can include hyolaryngeal exercises and BOT retraction exs. to improve the pharyngeal pressure and laryngeal elevation. If the exercises prove ineffective, I would refer her for a Myotomy as a last resort. Also, keep in mind that patients with severe GERD are not candidates for a CP Myotomy.

References:

*Logemann, Jeri A. (1998). Evaluation and Treatment of Swallowing Disorders, Pro Ed.

What Insurances Do We Accept?

Most doctor offices and many facilities have a list of insurance companies for whom they are contracted providers. They may or may not accept any patients who are not covered by one of those insurances. Professional Imaging does not discriminate based on which insurance a patient is covered under.

Our first priority is patient care.

We want to make sure that for every patient needing to be evaluated with a MBSS, we are there to provide service. No matter what insurance a patient is covered under, we will do everything possible to work with that insurance and/or patient. If prior authorization is needed, we will request it as soon as possible.

This process, though, poses risks and challenges on our part. In order to comply with the guidelines set by each type of insurance plan, it is required that we receive all necessary paperwork – including our intake form and the patient's face sheet – as early as possible before seeing the patient.

If the insurance carrier has another primary care physician listed on file, the patient or legal guardian will need to update this with the insurance company to streamline provider relations and reimbursement. If the patient has no insurance, we will be more than willing to accommodate a payment plan to ensure the deliverance of care to the patient.

We appreciate your help in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact the billing department with any questions you may have.

Ethics Requirements for State Licensure Renewal

The Texas State Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology extended 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 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 in the process of offering an ethics course before the end of the year. You can read about it in upcoming newsletters or on our website.



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