ASSESSMENT TOOL: Ranking Severity, Speech Pathology Areas of Involvement (Caregiver Version)

Instructions: Caregiver, please rank the severity of each condition, as it is presenting itself currently. The ranking is the same as the “pain scale,” where a “0” indicates no difficulties in an area, a “2-4” means a mild involvement, a “5-6” means a moderate involvement, and “7-9” is more on the severe-side. A “10” ranking is for the most difficulty a person could have in an area of speech pathology.

- **Articulation**
  - The patient has difficulty making speech sounds: ______/10
  - People have difficulty understanding what the patient says, ask for repetitions ______/10
  - The patient’s speech sounds slurred or dis-coordinated ______/10

- **Receptive Language**
  - The patient has difficulty following directions ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty following what others are saying ______/10
  - The patient has difficulties answering others’ questions ______/10

- **Expressive Language**
  - The patient has difficulty saying single words ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty saying phrases ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty saying sentences ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty thinking of words, although the patient knows the words ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty saying what is needed and wanted ______/10
  - The patient says sentences that do not make sense to the patient ______/10
  - The patient says sentences that do not make sense to others ______/10

- **Cognition**
  - The patient has memory difficulties ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty keeping a thought or idea for when the patient needs it ______/10
  - The patient’s cognition difficulties impact daily functioning ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty remembering the month, year, or day of the week ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty organizing due to memory issues ______/10
  - The patient has safety issues because of memory loss ______/10
  - The patient has difficulty communicating needs due to memory problems ______/10
Oral Swallowing
- The patient pockets food _______/10
- The patient spits food out because the patient cannot chew it _______/10
- The patient drools _______/10
- The patient has difficulty chewing regular diet consistency foods _______/10
- The patient does not have adequate tongue strength for swallowing _______/10
- The patient has behavior patterns which impact the patient’s swallowing _______/10

Throat Phase of Swallowing
- The patient coughs on liquids _______/10
- The patient coughs on food _______/10
- The patient has a history of choking _______/10
- The patient says the patient gets food gets stuck in their throat _______/10
- The patient has a history of pneumonia, or other respiratory conditions _______/10
- The patient gets strangled on saliva _______/10
- The patient exhibits a change in voice quality after swallows _______/10
- The patient has pain when swallowing _______/10
- The patient fears swallowing in a wrong manner _______/10
- The patient has been told the patient has a diagnosis of aspiration _______/10

Esophageal Phase of Swallowing
- The patient experiences frequent heartburn _______/10
- Medications do not control the patient’s frequent heartburn _______/10
- The patient has feelings of pressure in their chest after swallows _______/10
- The patient’s food comes up after swallowing _______/10
- The patient has been told the patient needs surgery on their esophagus _______/10

Stuttering
- The patient has difficulties with speaking in a fluent manner _______/10
- The patient stutters _______/10
- The patient demonstrates body movements to “get themselves out” of a stutter _______/10
- The patient states or shows a fear in certain situations due to fears of stuttering _______/10
- Stuttering is a new issue that has developed for the patient recently _______/10
- Voice/Resonance
  The patient’s voice doesn’t sound like a typical voice _______/10
  The patient’s voice is hoarse _______/10
  The patient’s voice is gravely _______/10
  The patient’s voice tends to not be loud enough _______/10
  The patient says the patient’s voice hurts when speaking _______/10
  The patient’s voice has an unusual sound _______/10
  The patient’s voice patterns change in different situations _______/10
  The patient exhibits a nasal sound when speaking _______/10

- Need for Alternative Means of Communication
  The patient has severe difficulty communicating as others do _______/10
  The patient needs a system to communicate _______/10
  The patient cannot meet needs in the traditional oral manner of communication _______/10

- Pragmatics
  The patient has difficulty with social language _______/10
  The patient has difficulty in knowing how to respond in different social situations _______/10
  The patient has said they don’t feel confident speaking in social situations _______/10
  The patient has said the patient oftentimes feels misunderstood in social situations _______/10
  The patient has difficulty asking for what the patient needs due to social difficulties _______/10

MOST CONCERNING AREA TO ADDRESS IN THERAPY FIRST: ______________________
(caregiver perspective)
Of any above areas that were ranked at a “1” or above, please list the time that present level of difficulty presented itself (3 months ago, 2 weeks ago, etc.) and the ranking of the area prior to the change.

- Area: __________________________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

- Area: __________________________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

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SPEECH PATHOLOGY PATIENT: ________________________________

SPEECH PATHOLOGIST: ________________________________

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: ________________________________

DATE: ______

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

• Area: ____________________________________________

  Length of time the present level of difficulty presented itself______________________

  Ranking of the area prior to the change _____/10

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