APPENDIX B: VARIABLES IMPACTING OUTCOMES

Many variables need to be considered when examining functional communication change over time. These variables influence treatment outcomes and may have positive or negative effects on the individual’s communication and/or swallowing development and/or progress. The following areas must be considered when reviewing outcomes data:

Motivation: desire for change to occur
- Individual
- Parent/Caregiver
- Provider

Support
- Home
  - time spent in home programming
  - encouragement/reinforcement toward therapy goals
  - amount of training
- School
  - amount of therapy time available
  - amount of preparation time
  - amount of training time for Teaching Assistant (TA) and/or volunteers
- Agencies
  - Family Services (e.g., Public/Mental Health, Child Development Clinic Services)
  - amount of training for agency workers
  - respite, behavioral consultation
- Other
  - material provision
  - interagency collaboration

Concomitant factors
- see Appendix A: Concomitant Factors for specific conditions

Breaks in service
- family moved
- illness
- poor attendance
- please refer to the Treatment Outcome Summary Form for a detailed listing
Staffing
- Training/education
- Experience in the provision of speech/language intervention
- Staff change
- Suitability to assigned individuals

Flexibility
- Scheduling to meet individual’s needs

Intervention mode
- Level of professional involvement
  - amount of supervision time
  - provider: Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), TA, parent, special needs worker, etc.
  - therapy setting
  - individual versus group therapy
  - scheduling, e.g., block scheduling

Frequency of therapy and length of session
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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