



MarinHealth Speech Pathology  
Services

1350 South Eliseo Drive, Suite 130

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The MarinHealth Speech Pathology department offers hospital inpatient and clinic outpatient services for clients of all ages, children and adults.

All services require a referral from your provider. We contract with many insurance plans.

Services focus on evaluating and designing custom treatment plans to improve communication and swallowing abilities. Patients in the hospital can be referred following stroke, traumatic and acquired brain injury, injury to vocal folds, and following illnesses that result in generalized weakness which can impact swallowing safely and communicating with loved ones.

Speech Pathology outpatient clinic services are provided by our staff of experienced Speech Pathologists. We evaluate and treat a variety of communication disorders and swallowing disorders, including performing Modified Barium Swallow Studies with the MarinHealth Medical Center Radiology team.



- In-clinic services include:
- Pediatric speech-language evaluations and treatment
- Pediatric and adult voice evaluation and treatment
- Dysfluency therapy for children and adults with history of stuttering
- Cognitive-communication evaluations and therapy following concussion and mild to severe traumatic brain injury for adults and children
- Speech and Language therapy following stroke
- LSVT Voice therapy

#### Hearing and Speech Department

1350 South Eliseo Drive, Suite 130, Greenbrae, CA 94904 | O 1-415-925-7220 | F 1-415-925-7979

[www.mymarinhealth.org](http://www.mymarinhealth.org)



## May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

Each May, Better Hearing & Speech Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of Audiologists and Speech Pathologists in providing life-altering treatment.

This year, Better Hearing & Speech Month reflects the impact of the COVID-19 virus and features guidance for preventing or managing communication disorders at this challenging time. This week we focus on the role of Speech Pathologists in facilitating communication for ventilated patients.

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) can play an important role helping patients communicate their condition and wishes with their medical teams. AAC includes the use of gestures, picture and word boards, and messages on computers or phones to help people communicate more effectively. The need for AAC is heightened by the fact that patients in acute care during this COVID-19 time may not have loved ones around who would normally advocate for their care. Your MarinHealth Speech-Language Pathologists work with our patients at the bedside to introduce some form of AAC for these patients when they are alert and able to participate. A speech-language evaluation order is included on the intubation order set, allowing our Speech Pathologists to evaluate intubated patients on sedation holiday for an appropriate communication system (AAC) which can be used with staff and family.

### **AAC and COVID-19:**

Ventilator Use May Necessitate Alternative Methods of Communication for Patients in Acute Care



Patients and their family members should know that they have a right to communicate and that there are effective communication options via augmentative and alternative communication.

Learn more at [www.asha.org/public](http://www.asha.org/public)



## Swallowing Disorders (Dysphagia) in Adults

Swallowing disorders, also called dysphagia (dis-Fay-juh) can occur at different stages in the swallowing process. Several diseases, conditions, or surgical interventions can result in swallowing problems.

General signs may include:

- Coughing during or right after eating or drinking
- Wet or gurgly sounding voice during or after eating or drinking
- Extra effort or time needed to chew or swallow
- Food or liquid leaking from the mouth or getting stuck in the mouth
- Recurring pneumonia or chest congestion after eating
- Weight loss or dehydration from not being able to eat enough

As a result, adults may have:

- Poor nutrition or dehydration
- Risk of aspiration (food or liquid entering the airway), which can lead to pneumonia and chronic lung disease

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) who specializes in swallowing disorders can evaluate individuals who are experiencing problems eating and drinking and may recommend:

- specific swallowing treatments, positions or strategies to help the individual swallow more effectively
- specific food and liquid textures that are easier and safer to swallow

You may contact the MarinHealth Medical Center Speech Pathologists at 415-925-7220 or email [hearingandspeech@mymarinhealth.org](mailto:hearingandspeech@mymarinhealth.org) for more information.

[www.asha.org/public/speech/swallowing/Swallowing-Disorders-in-Adults](http://www.asha.org/public/speech/swallowing/Swallowing-Disorders-in-Adults)

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## Marin Health Speech Pathology Department

### Cognitive-Communication Evaluation and Outpatient Treatment Services

The Marin Health Outpatient Speech Pathology Department provides individualized cognitive-communication evaluations and therapy. We specialize in increasing functional demands for attention, memory and problem solving, executive function, and speech of processing for patients recently discharged from the emergency department, acute care hospital, or acute rehabilitation hospital. Our program coordinates patients and their families into reentry to school, home, and return to work with individualized evaluations and treatment goals. When outpatient goals of care are met, we then transition patients and families into community resources specific to brain injury and concussion.

Our staff of experienced Speech-Language Pathologists with Traumatic Brain Injury experience:

- Will work with your private insurance, government insurance or Workers Comp insurance to secure funding for your therapy services.
- Will coordinate care with your primary care providers and medical team specialists.
- Will coordinate transition of care from the Emergency Department, acute care hospital, acute rehabilitation hospital, or home health services. When our goals of care are met, we will facilitate transition to community resources.

Signs of Cognitive-Communication difficulties which may suggest patient will benefit from outpatient cognitive-communication therapy:

- Increased headache, particularly when resuming daily routine
- Sensitivity to light and sound that may increase headache or vertigo
- Vertigo and/or nausea
- Difficulty focusing and sustaining attention to simple tasks or concentration
- Becoming easily distracted
- Difficulty with multi-tasking, especially in noisy environments, similar to working in offices, classroom settings, and home settings.
- Difficulty prioritizing and organizing daily tasks.

For more information, please contact us at 415-925-7220 or email us at [hearingandspeech@mymarinhealth.org](mailto:hearingandspeech@mymarinhealth.org)

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