



Professional Speech-Language Services for You and Your Community

About the Profession

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) must have a minimum of a Masters degree in speech-language pathology from an accredited university, complete a nine-month Clinical Fellowship, and earn a Certificate of Clinical Competency from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and be licensed to practice in the state of Washington.

In addition, most SLPs hold specialized certifications and are members of the Washington Speech-Language-Hearing Association serving on several committees. The SLPs of WHMC evaluate, diagnose, and provide treatment for all forms of communication and feeding/swallowing disorders.

Programs for Adults

WHMC provides individualized adult programs aimed at correcting swallowing impairment, cognition challenges, and speech/language difficulties. WHMC offers Modified Barium Swallow (MBS) studies to those who are having swallowing concerns. Specialized services for those seeking alternative means of communication, like speech-generating devices are also available.

Programs for Children

Early diagnosis and intervention is key to avoiding developmental and academic delays. A child suspected of having a speech or language difficulty should undergo a professional evaluation. WHMC provides individualized pediatric programs targeting speech/language difficulties, cognition challenges, and swallowing impairments. Specialized services for literacy concerns, alternative forms of communication, and neuro-affirming autism service provision are also available.

Communication Disorders

Communication disorders come in many forms and affect the whole family. Autism, Parkinson's disease, cancer of the head and neck, cerebral palsy, birth defects, down syndrome, stroke, and degenerative neurological diseases are just a few of the causes of impaired communication or feeding/swallowing difficulties.

The professional SLPs at WHMC provide the highest quality services for diagnosis and treating not just the patient, but also for counseling and support of the primary caregivers.

Vital Tools for Effective Communication

Speech and language skills are vital tools for communication. Communication involves the understanding and use of gestures, sounds, words, and sentences. An individual unable to communicate their thoughts and feelings may experience frustration.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call our Therapy Services Department at
Whitman Hospital and Medical Center at (509) 397-5733
1200 W Fairview Street * Colfax, WA**