

Cognitive Communication Disorders and the Outpatient SLP scope of practice

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Table: Guidelines for referring patient for cognitive disorders as a non-ST team member

Impairment	What you'll see (higher level patient)	What you'll see (lower level patient)	What to do (how can I tell)
Attention	Pt cannot simultaneously tell a story and complete exercise	Pt easily losing focus, cannot track repetitions of exercise, requires cueing to redirect	Assess the pt's ability to complete physical-cognitive dual tasking with exercise
Memory	Pt unable to recall changes since last visit, HEP, or sequence exercises	Pt cannot recall details from previous session, therapist name or location	Ask patient about previous session, injury, orientation
Problem Solving	Pt struggling to schedule appointments and align transportation	Pt without insight into safety risk of riding bike down interstate	Ask questions related to safety awareness
Executive Functioning	Pt cannot apply feedback from therapist to support accuracy with exercises	Pt with out of character behavioral or emotional responses	Assess can the patient "listen-think-plan-do" simultaneously during sessions
Word retrieval	Pt talks around topic, unable to describe in detail or specifically answer questions, uses filler words	Pt unable to name objects within and out of sight, takes increased time to find words	Ask pt a variety of open ended questions (personal recount, how to complete the next exercise)
Auditory processing	Pt misses details in verbal directions, takes increased time to complete exercises	Pt with difficulty following directions with background noise	Assess how many times in the session were you providing pt more than "normal" amount of repetitions