

Calendar of Events

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May 16, 2026

- May 16, 2026

Exquisite Role of the SLP in the ICU

08:30 AM - 03:30 PM PST

Jo Puntil, MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, is a highly respected leader in the field of Speech-Pathology, with specialized expertise in Swallowing, Communication, and Cognition disorders in the Intensive Care setting. As an ASHA Fellow and former chair of the Council for Clinical Certification (CFCC), she has made significant contributions to clinical practice, professional standards and interdisciplinary care for her profession.

Jo has an extensive background in national/international lecturing and has a strong presence on platforms like MedBridge and TIMS, where she offers several educational courses. With over 35 years of experience, she has been instrumental in developing interdisciplinary rehabilitation programs focusing on critical and acute care settings. Her numerous honors and publications reflect a deep dedication to advancing knowledge and clinical practice in acute care, making her a valuable resource for both clinicians and researchers in the field.

This course explores the evolving and essential role of Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) in the intensive care unit (ICU), emphasizing their impact on patient outcomes through early intervention and interdisciplinary collaboration. As ICU practices increasingly focus on reducing length of stay, mortality, and co-morbidities, SLPs are uniquely positioned to address complications related to prolonged intubation, sedation, and delirium. Participants will learn how early involvement in swallowing, communication, and cognitive support can help mitigate the effects of Post Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS) and promote improved recovery trajectories.

The course will examine the integration of ICU bundles—particularly the A-F bundle—and highlight the SLP's role in managing medically complex patients, including those on high-flow oxygen. Practical strategies will be provided for assessing delirium, implementing post-extubation swallow screens, and making critical decisions aligned with patient goals of care. Special attention will be given to pre- and post-operative swallow screening for cardiovascular surgical patients, reinforcing the importance of early and ongoing evaluation.

Additionally, the course will showcase novel treatment approaches used by SLPs in the ICU, including innovative communication strategies for intubated patients (e.g., pharyngeal electrical stimulation, RMST), cognitive-linguistic interventions, and individualized swallowing therapies. The importance of educating ICU nurses and family members to support cognitive and emotional recovery will be emphasized, equipping participants to advocate for and implement cutting-edge, patient-centered speech pathology care in critical settings. By the end of the session, attendees will have a deeper understanding of the vital contributions of Speech Pathology in the ICU and leave with practical tools and insights to enhance communication, cognition, and overall recovery for critically ill patients.

*Instructional Level: Intermediate
Pathologists*

Target Audience: Speech language

Learner Objectives:

Identify the 6 key components of the A-F ICU Bundle

Differentiate at least 2 differences between hypoactive and hyperactive delirium and what the Speech Pathologist can do to assist in the patient's recovery.

Analyze the appropriate time to screen for swallowing post extubation.
Distinguish the timing and goal for a clinical swallowing evaluation for respiratory compromised patients
Describe the SLP's role in educating/counseling patients and care partners in the ICU environment

Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

8:30 - Course begins
60 minutes - ICU Team, roles and responsibilities, prevalence of patient's morbidity and mortality
60 minutes - A-F bundle and the Role of the Speech Pathologist, what does delirium have to do with anything?
60 minutes - Speech and Swallow Evaluation in the ICU what do we cover, when to we get involved.
60 minutes -:Case Studies of Clinical Decision Making: To eat or not to Eat that is the question
60 minutes - Novel Treatment in the ICU, what can we do to help patients.
45 minutes - Mentoring ICU staff, education to staff, families,
15 minutes - Q and A
3:30 pm course conclusion

Special Requests

We encourage participation by all individuals. If you have a disability or other special requests (visual, hearing, physical, etc.), please indicate your request in the designated section included in registration process. We will do our best to accommodate you, please allow a minimum of 14 days notice to allow us time to process your request.

Refund Policy

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Satisfaction Guarantee & Complaint Policy

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Content Disclosures

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Christine M. Sapienza, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is a distinguished speech-language pathologist, scientist, and academic leader recognized internationally for her expertise in respiratory muscle strength training (RMST), voice and swallowing disorders, and neurological rehabilitation. Over her career, Dr. Sapienza has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, multiple book chapters, and seminal works on respiratory and phonatory rehabilitation. She has served as principal investigator on numerous NIH- and VA-funded research projects and developed evidence-based clinical protocols widely adopted across speech-language pathology and rehabilitation medicine. Her innovative translational work has transformed the clinical management of Parkinson's disease, stroke, and neurodegenerative conditions. Dr. Sapienza is also a seasoned educator and continuing education speaker, known for her engaging and clinically grounded presentations.

Facilitator: Kim Gully, MS, CCC-SLP, CCM, CBIST

Disclosures: President & ASHA Continuing Education Administrator (CEA) of MSCC, Founder and Leader of New Start Support Group for TBI Survivors

Course Description

Respiratory Muscle Strength Training (RMST) is an evidence-based therapeutic approach designed to improve respiratory and laryngeal function for patients with neurological, pulmonary, and voice disorders. This three-hour course, led by Dr. Christine M. Sapienza, will provide speech-language pathologists and rehabilitation professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the science, application, and clinical outcomes associated with RMST. The course emphasizes translational research findings and their direct application to patient care, empowering clinicians to confidently integrate RMST into therapy programs for individuals with dysphagia, dysphonia, and airway protection deficits.

The course begins with an overview of respiratory muscle physiology and the mechanisms that underlie strength and endurance training of the inspiratory and expiratory systems. Foundational studies and clinical trials supporting the use of Inspiratory Muscle Strength Training (IMST) and Expiratory Muscle Strength Training (EMST) will be reviewed, with discussion of how these interventions impact speech breathing, cough, swallowing safety, and phonatory control. Attendees will gain insight into how RMST enhances airway clearance, improves cough efficacy, and supports respiratory coordination during speech and swallowing tasks.

Participants will explore evidence-based training protocols, including device calibration, individualized dosing, progression strategies, and integration with existing voice and swallowing therapy techniques. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying appropriate patient populations such as those with Parkinson's disease, stroke, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and post-surgical weakness. Considerations for safety, contraindications, and monitoring of physiologic responses will be highlighted.

Through demonstration and real-world case studies, learners will observe the practical implementation of RMST in clinical settings, including both inpatient and outpatient environments. Examples will illustrate multidisciplinary collaboration and outcome measurement, focusing on functionally meaningful changes in cough peak flow, subglottal pressure, and patient-reported communication and swallowing outcomes.

By the end of the session, participants will have the knowledge and clinical tools to evaluate patients for RMST candidacy, implement and monitor individualized programs, and document measurable outcomes to support reimbursement and efficacy. The course concludes with an interactive discussion designed to reinforce key learning points and answer participant questions, ensuring that attendees leave with both a solid scientific foundation and practical clinical competence in this innovative rehabilitation technique.

Learner Outcomes

Explain the physiological rationale and scientific evidence supporting inspiratory and expiratory muscle strength training (IMST and EMST).

Identify appropriate patient populations and contraindications for RMST use in clinical practice.

Demonstrate correct setup, calibration, and implementation of RMST protocols, including progression and data tracking.

Integrate RMST within a broader therapeutic framework for dysphagia, voice, and airway management in neurological and pulmonary disorders.

Time-Ordered Agenda

15 minutes

Introduction and Overview

45 minutes

Scientific Foundation of RMST

45 minutes

Clinical Implementation and Protocols

30 minutes

Case Studies and Video Demonstrations

30 minutes

Measuring Outcomes and Troubleshooting

15 minutes -

Summary and Q&A

Intended Audience

Speech-language pathologists, speech-language pathology assistants, and other rehabilitation professionals working in acute care, outpatient, and long-term care settings who provide services for patients with voice, swallowing, or respiratory-related

disorders.

Instructional Level

Intermediate – designed for clinicians with foundational knowledge of speech, voice, or swallowing physiology who wish to expand their skills in RMST application.

Disclosures

Financial: Dr. Sapienza receives royalties from Plural Publishing and speaker fees for educational webinars.

Nonfinancial: Dr. Sapienza has published and presented extensively on RMST as part of her academic research and advocacy for evidence-based clinical practice.

In order to receive credit for this course participants must complete the following requirements:

- *attend entire course*
- *Join webinar on time and stay until course concludes*
- *partial credit not allowed*
- *complete program evaluation/self assessment - must be completed within 7 days of completion of course in for attendance to be reported to ASHA CE Registry*
- *certificate of completion will be awarded upon receipt of program evaluation*

Special Requests

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July 22, 2026
- July 22, 2026

Change in Date - Practicing at the Top of Your License: Dysphagia in Neurodegenerative Diso

05:30 PM - 08:30 PM PST

Kendrea Garand will be the speaker for this webinar presentation. More details to follow.

October 7, 2026
- October 7, 2026

Evaluating & Treating Cognitive-Communication Deficits Across Acquired Neurological Pathologies 05:30 PM - 08:30 PM PST

Justine Dolan, M.S., CCC-SLP, is a board-certified Speech-Language Pathologist with over 20 years of clinical experience specializing in the evaluation and treatment of post-concussion syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and other neurological disorders. She developed and led the Communication Disorders component of a pilot adult brain injury rehabilitation program in Berkeley, California, where she also authored the curriculum for individuals with mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries. A California transplant from the greater New York City area, Justine enjoys singing, attending live music events, hiking, and spending quality time with her son and pets.

This practical course is designed for SLPs working with adults with ABI and neurodegenerative conditions who want stronger tools for real-world clinical decision-making. It focuses on how to evaluate and treat cognitive-communication and motor-speech disorders across different etiologies, severities, and settings, using clear frameworks you can take straight back to your caseload.

You will learn how to choose and interpret assessment tools, integrate findings and turn that information into functional, person-centered goals and treatment plans. Examples from acute care, inpatient rehab, outpatient, and home health will illustrate how to adjust your approach for individuals with traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries, Parkinson's disease, and post-Covid-19 cognitive-communication changes.

Through case discussions and practical strategies, you will sharpen your ability to:

- *Recognize and differentiate common acquired and progressive neurologic presentations*
- *Select and justify appropriate cognitive-communication and motor-speech assessments*
- *Plan evidence-based, functional interventions across recovery and disease stages*
- *Document progress in a way that supports both clinical outcomes and reimbursement*

Time Ordered Agenda

10 min: Welcome, framing, objectives

25 min: Foundations of cognitive-communication disorders

40 min: Evaluation across acquired neurological pathologies

60 min: Treatment principles and interventions

35 min: Case applications and documentation

10 min: Wrap-up, Q&A, self-reflection

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