



South Carolina Speech-Language Hearing Association

Frequently Asked Questions on FEES

Any information contained in this document should not be construed as legal advice and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter. All individuals who wish to verify legal requirements of license holders should consult the practice act and all relevant regulatory chapters for the practice of Speech-Language Pathology.

SC Board of Examiners Discussion and Statement on Physician oversight for FEES:

“FEES is within the Scope of Practice of Speech Language Pathology, but whether you need Physician oversight is based on your place of employments’ policies.”

https://llr.sc.gov/aud/Minutes/20220721163345985_SLPA%20Minutes-April%2021%202022.pdf

Is the procedure reimbursable in skilled nursing with mobile FEES providers?

The provider will need to verify with insurance and/or the facility where the FEES is being provided. The Medicare MAC that covers South Carolina currently has no restrictions on providing FEES. You may read the outpatient Speech-Language Pathology LCD (local coverage determination) document, here:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?lcdid=34429&ver=63&>

Developing Competency in FEES:

ASHA has developed a Dysphagia Competency Verification Tool (DCVT) that may be utilized within training programs, facilities, and continuing education courses to assist in determining competency for providing FEES procedures. There are no regulated minimum number of transnasal scope passes in the state of South Carolina or nationally. Some states may have regulatory or statutory guidance on FEES. SLPs should contact the state association or licensing board wherever they plan to complete a FEES procedure to ensure they are compliant with all legal guidelines.

<https://www.asha.org/siteassets/practice-portal/dysphagia-competency-verification-tool-users-guide.pdf>

Developing Facility Policies and Procedures:

To date there is no other national guidance from ASHA for facilities to develop a Policy and Procedure document. We recommend reaching out to facilities that already have FEES to see local, comparable policies and procedures, and work within the facility to generate a policy and procedure that will work for the facility.



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National Resources on FEES

Consensus Papers on the FEES Procedure:

Tutorial on Clinical Practice for Use of the Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Procedure With Adult Populations: Part 1

https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2021_AJSLP-20-00348

Tutorial on Clinical Practice for Use of the Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Procedure With Pediatric Populations: Part 2

https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/2022_AJSLP-22-00057

ASHA Position Statement on Endoscopy: <https://www.asha.org/policy/ps2008-00297/>

ASHA Position Statement on FEES: <https://www.asha.org/policy/ps2005-00112/>