



### Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

The nominator, an anonymous medical director, is interested in learning whether a speech therapy exam after stroke is efficacious. Because we were unable to contact the nominator to confirm details of the nomination we could not clarify the purpose of speech therapy consultation (speech vs. swallowing evaluation) or the outcomes.

We were unable to focus the topic further for assessment and consideration by the program for a future systematic review. No further activity will be undertaken on this topic.

The EHC Program acknowledges that this is an important topic. The following systematic review may be of interest to the nominator:

Brady MC, et al. 2016. Speech and language therapy for aphasia following stroke. Cochrane Database of Systematic Review. Issue 6. Art. No.: CD000425. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000425.pub4.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000425.pub4/abstract;jsessionid=89C2FCA6032DAB1877411BBDE363C81E.f02t03>

### Topic Brief

**Topic Name:** The efficacy of speech therapy consultation after stroke, #704

**Nomination Date:** 09//21/2016

**Nominator:** Individual

**Topic Brief Date:** 09/04/2017

**Author:** Kim Wittenberg

**Conflict of Interest:** The author does not have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

**Summary of Nomination:** The nominator, an anonymous medical director, is interested in learning whether a speech therapy exam after stroke is efficacious.

#### Proposed Key Questions

None provided.

#### Background and Clinical Context

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) evaluate and treat individuals with a wide variety of speech, language, and swallowing differences and disorders. After a stroke, individuals may have issues with swallowing which can result in aspiration, pneumonia, and malnutrition. They may have also have speech issues. Speech-language pathology examinations may be

conducted after stroke. We were not able to contact the nominator, and thus, we could not clarify the aspect of an SLP evaluation of interest.

### Selection Criteria Summary

Selection Criteria	Supporting Data
<b>1. Appropriateness</b>	
1a. Does the nomination represent a health care drug, intervention, device, technology, or health care system/setting available (or soon to be available) in the U.S.?	Yes.
1b. Is the nomination a request for a systematic review?	No, this nomination does not explicitly state the desire for a systematic review.
1c. Is the focus on effectiveness or comparative effectiveness?	The focus of this review is on effectiveness.
1d. Is the nomination focus supported by a logic model or biologic plausibility? Is it consistent or coherent with what is known about the topic?	The nomination does not provide sufficient information to answer this question.
<b>2. Importance</b>	
2a. Represents a significant disease burden; large proportion of the population	The nomination does not provide sufficient information to answer this question.
2b. Is of high public interest; affects health care decision making, outcomes, or costs for a large proportion of the US population or for a vulnerable population	The nomination does not provide sufficient information to answer this question.
2c. Represents important uncertainty for decision makers	The nomination does not provide sufficient information to answer this question.
2d. Incorporates issues around both clinical benefits and potential clinical harms	The nomination does not provide sufficient information about which benefits and harms are of interest.
2e. Represents high costs due to common use, high unit costs, or high associated costs to consumers, to patients, to health care systems, or to payers	Yes – a speech-language pathology exam is common after stroke.

### References

Brady MC, et al. 2016. Speech and language therapy for aphasia following stroke. Cochrane Database of Systematic Review. Issue 6. Art. No.: CD000425. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000425.pub4. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000425.pub4/abstract;jsessionid=89C2FCA6032DAB1877411BBDE363C81E.f02t03>)