

FAQs about Voice Eligibility

- 1. What should I do if my Special Education Department is reluctant to pay for the appointment with the Otolaryngologist?**

ANSWER:

Try talking with the school nurse. Typically they have access to money designated for appointments with doctors that they can use for students who have been identified. Begin the discussion early on in the process so that the appointment can be made and the report received prior to the date of the ARD. If that does not work, persevere in your discussion with your superiors including the Special Education Director, if necessary. The law supports you. Be prepared to support the importance of the ENT visit using your knowledge about voice disorders.

- 2. I do not feel comfortable with my ability to make accurate severity judgments using the analogue scale. What should I do?**

ANSWER

The more voices you evaluate the better you will get. In the meantime, remember, that during the process of qualification for services, the important information is whether or not a voice disorder is present that is affecting educational success. So, the judgment is simply, "Is there a disorder present?" Most of the time, the answer to that question is obvious from the moment you begin talking with the student. Also, you do not make the determination of presence of a disorder based on your judgment alone. You are collecting data from the physician, the parent, the teacher and the child, to help you determine the presence of a disorder.

Severity judgment (the difference between a score of 35 and 45, moderate versus severe) becomes more important when *evaluating progress* in therapy. However, the job of assigning values to the way the voice sounds also becomes easier when you know the patient well and are focused on the changes he/she has made relative to your goals.

- 3. Vocal cord dysfunction does not seem like a speech/language disorder to me. Is seeing these students in therapy really part of my job?**

ANSWER:

Technically, VCD is a disorder of respiration. However, it has the potential to significantly affect educational success and get more severe without treatment. So, it is important to treat these students, when identified.

- 4. What if the parent does not follow through with the physician appointment?**

ANSWER:

In this case, you cannot qualify the child for service in the area of voice.

Additional questions?? Email staff@txsha.org