



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPIC EVALUATION OF VOICE & SWALLOWING (FEEVS)

Certification Program

The *Health Professions and Occupations Act's* [Health and Care Professionals Regulation](#) authorizes certified speech-language pathologists to insert an instrument, device, hand, or finger beyond the point in the nasal passages where they normally narrow, and beyond the pharynx, for the purpose of assessing or managing voice and swallowing disorders. In addition, a certified speech-language pathologist may administer topically a Schedule I or II drug that is an anaesthetic for the purposes of performing these certified restricted activities.

Licensees are expected to complete the certification program objectives within the clinical setting where they plan to practice the certified restricted activity (e.g., adult, and/or pediatric clinical setting).

Certification program learning objectives

A Full licensee in good standing may apply to be certified to perform this restricted activity if they successfully complete the following requirements within a period of 3 years or less.

Licensees who anticipate needing longer than 3 years to complete certification program requirements may request an extension by emailing certification@chcpbc.org. Extension requests are reviewed and approved by the Licence Committee.

Supervised practice should occur after completion of observations and in order of objective number. Supervision level should decrease gradually to enable the licensee to attain autonomous practice.

Objectives	Knowledge, skills, and demonstrated competencies for certification program
Objective 1	Attains foundational clinical knowledge and experience for performing Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Voice & Swallowing (FEEVS)
1.1	Completes a minimum of one-year clinical experience in clinical voice and swallowing assessments by the time the certification program is completed. Training may commence prior to completion of the one-year experience (work as Provisional and Full licensee counts).
1.2	Completes course work for a minimum of 6 hours on the methodology, use, and interpretation of endoscopy (e.g., online or in-person course, workshop, webinar, etc.). Certificate or proof of completion is required for the application.
1.3	Understands the roles of relevant team members in the provision of endoscopy services related to voice and swallowing disorders.
1.4	Knows the purposes of the SLP endoscopic assessment and understands the objectives of the procedure including expected outcomes.



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1.5	Describes the advantages and disadvantages of endoscopy in lieu of other instrumental examinations.
1.6	Understands other instrumental procedures such as videofluoroscopy and videostroboscopy.
1.7	Knows normal and abnormal swallowing and respiration in terms of the underlying anatomy and pathophysiology.
1.8	Knows normal and abnormal phonation and respiration in terms of the underlying anatomy and pathophysiology.
1.9	Knows postural changes and compensatory strategies as they affect voice production and swallowing.
Objective 2	Demonstrates proficient patient selection
2.1	Obtains correct information from medical records, patient's history and screening results to inform the need for FEEVS.
2.2	Determines possible signs of laryngeal dysfunction affecting swallowing and/or voice.
2.3	Determines patient appropriateness based on their current cognitive, neurological, developmental, and medical status and goals for care.
2.4	Knows the clinical indications for an endoscopic exam in addition to or in lieu of a fluoroscopic examination as the preferred objective diagnostic exam(s).
2.5	Determines the patient's ability to comply with or tolerate the procedure.
Objective 3	Understands the FEEVS procedure, including risks and precautions
3.1	Knows of the risks, benefits, and precautions for specific patient populations, including but not limited to: - neurological disorders - other medical conditions (e.g., cancer, surgery, obstructions) - psychiatric conditions - laryngeal breathing dysfunction, such as paradoxical vocal fold movement/adductor laryngospasm - needs of patients across the life span
3.2	Recognizes and understands the indications and contraindications for the procedure including any anatomical and medical contraindications.
3.3	Knows the uses of endoscopy as a biofeedback tool.
3.4	Understands the use of topical anesthetics, including potential adverse reactions and contraindications and application protocol(s).



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3.5	Knows appropriate infection control prevention and requirements for sterilization of equipment.
3.6	Knows potential adverse reactions including potential allergies and sensitivities (e.g. topical anesthetic, latex, nasal decongestants).
3.7	Knows appropriate treatments for conditions such as vasovagal response, nasal inflammation, vomiting, etc.
3.8	Determines patient-specific contraindications, including agitation, reduced compliance, history of epistaxis, movement disorders, acute cardiac conditions.
Objective 4	Performs the FEEVS procedure independently
4.1	Prepares and instructs patient for the procedure.
4.2	Directs patient through appropriate tasks required for a comprehensive exam.
4.3	Inserts the endoscope trans-nasally and manipulates it within the hypopharynx to obtain desired view with minimal patient discomfort and/or complications.
4.4	Views pharyngeal and laryngeal anatomy to describe laryngeal and supra-laryngeal structures, postures and gestures.
4.5	Determines and elicits appropriate treatment intervention strategies to determine the effect on phonation.
4.6	Prepares appropriate bolus materials and selection of appropriate consistencies for patient testing.
4.7	Views pharyngeal and laryngeal anatomy for bolus flow and residue.
4.8	Trials swallowing maneuvers to determine appropriate treatment strategies and feeding conditions.
4.9	Evaluates anatomical structures at each point in the examination.
4.10	Completes a minimum of 10 observations of endoscopic examinations and interpretations. Observations may be of any qualified licensee or authorized health professional and not necessarily the supervisor of the applicant-in-training. Up to 5 observations may be in other modalities (e.g., digital recordings or virtual) if the licensee-in-training is accompanied by the supervisor.
4.11	Completes 5 supervised passes of the endoscope on “normal” patients.
4.12	Completes 10 supervised passes of the endoscope on potentially “complex” patients.
4.13	Completes 5 supervised endoscopic examinations of patients, including review and discussion with supervisor.



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4.14	Completes 5 supervised endoscopic evaluations (assessment and diagnosis) of patients.
Objective 5	Interprets the endoscopy results correctly
5.1	Knows of normal and abnormal oral, pharyngeal, and laryngeal anatomy and physiology.
5.2	Describes the effects of body, head and neck posturing and compensatory gestures on the patient's laryngeal postures and vocal fold movements, and the patient's laryngeal function as it relates to breathing, airway protection and voice production.
5.3	Recognition of abnormal patterns, signs and symptoms of voice problems, and voice and laryngeal breathing problems.
5.4	Describes accurately the patient's laryngeal postures, gestures, movement, and phonation patterns.
5.5	Completes a minimum of 5 supervised patient study interpretations, in real time, including review of report writing with evidence of high inter-rater consistency of results.
5.6	Completes a minimum of 3 supervised patient interpretations (may be conducted via recorded images) and review of associated reports.
5.7	Completes a minimum of 5 supervised presentations of results and implications to patient and/or family with recommendations for follow-up and treatment/interventions.
5.9	Knows normal and abnormal physiology of swallowing and laryngeal function for voice, breathing and airway protection.
5.10	Recognizes the physical signs of pharyngeal residue, laryngeal penetration, and tracheal aspiration.
5.11	Recognizes the physical signs of airway obstruction.
5.13	Recognizes abnormal patterns and symptoms of oropharyngeal dysphagia.
5.14	Describes the patient's mechanical, durational and temporal aspects of the swallow.

Licensees are responsible for documenting learning interactions with patients and patient consent in accordance with the CHCPBC Ethics and Practice Standards.

References

[CHCPBC Bylaws, section 7](#)
[CHCPBC Ethics and Practice Standards](#)
[National Speech-Language Pathology Competency Profile](#)

Resource

[Practical Learning Log](#)