

VFSS VS FEES: CHOOSING THE RIGHT STUDY AT THE RIGHT TIME

0.1 ASHA CEU and 1 Act 48 PDH

VERONICA MAHER CROESUS MS, CCC-SLP AND TERESA PUDVAH M.A. CCC-SLP

VERONICA CROESUS, AM A PAID EMPLOYEE OF LVHN, PROUDLY PART OF JEFFERSON HEALTH. I DO NOT HAVE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES RELATED TO THE MATERIAL BEING PRESENTED AND WILL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS SEMINAR.

TERESA PUDVAH, AM A PAID EMPLOYEE OF LVHN, PROUDLY PART OF JEFFERSON HEALTH. I DO NOT HAVE ANY FINANCIAL OR NON-FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES RELATED TO THE MATERIAL BEING PRESENTED AND WILL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS SEMINAR.

Learning Objectives:

- Learner will understand the benefits and limitations of each instrumental assessment (FEES and VFSS).
- Learner will evaluate which instrumental assessment is most appropriate based on multiple clinical factors.
- Learner will discuss case studies to implement critical thinking in determining most appropriate instrumental assessment.



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

Pennsylvania
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

In acute care hospitals, it is critical to have access to instrumental swallow assessments for clinicians to make the most appropriate recommendations for patients experiencing dysphagia. Both Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) and Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies (VFSS) are gold standards, having access to both is considered best practice. Clinicians should understand the benefits and limitations of both studies. Additionally, clinicians should be able to identify which patients are more appropriate for FEES than VFSS and vice versa. This session will provide an overview of both instrumental assessments and allow the audience to use critical thinking to determine the best study to serve their patients in an interactive case study activity.

Speaker's Bio: Veronica Croesus M.S. CCC-SLP is a practicing speech- language pathologist in acute care at Lehigh Valley Health Network in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She received her Masters in Speech-Language Pathology from East Stroudsburg University in 2012. Veronica has presented at multiple continuing education courses on various topics related to delivery of SLP services and presented posters at PSHA Convention in 2024 and 2025. She is a member of PSHA's Healthcare and Telepractice Committee. She is passionate about providing clinical supervision to graduate clinicians and serves as the rehabilitation clinical specialist of student programming for LVHN's rehabilitation department.

Teresa Pudvah, MA, CCC-SLP is a rehabilitation manager for the Inpatient Speech department at Lehigh Valley Health Network, proudly part of Jefferson Health, in Allentown, PA. She earned her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology at Northwestern University in December 2005 and has over 20 years of clinical experience as a speech-language pathologist in acute care/long-term acute care hospitals with a strong focus on patients with complex airways, including tracheostomy and laryngectomy. In her leadership role, Teresa is dedicated to program development and ensuring implementation of best practice patterns across the inpatient continuum. Additionally, Teresa is a member of PSHA's Healthcare and Telepractice Committee.