

# Introduction

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Working with adults with dysphagia is a challenging and rewarding part of the practice of speech-language pathology. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to evaluate and treat patients in a variety of settings and find that I continually learn from them how to be a better dysphagia clinician. This book is a compilation of what I have learned and how I have applied that information to different practice settings. It is meant to be a practical resource for you to use on a day-to-day basis, but also has reference information that will help you when you encounter a challenging patient. It should be just one of many resources you use to build your knowledge and skills in dysphagia management.

*The Source for Dysphagia* was first published in 1996 and then updated in 2000. Because it is crucial to practice from an evidence-base in dysphagia, and research in the area provides new information on an almost monthly basis, it was time again for a comprehensive review and update. This Third Edition provides information that is current in evaluation and treatment, with particular attention to updating evidence for treatment techniques.

Most chapters contain significant revisions, such as the following:

- Descriptions of the swallowing physiology match the new diagnostic descriptors of the overlapping phases of swallowing
- Information on billing based on the changes to the Medicare Beneficiary Manual
- Description of the bedside/clinical swallowing evaluation as an evaluation, not a screening, with information on establishing a screening program
- Updated educational materials with new handouts on the SLP's role in palliative care and end-of-life decision making and the ethical challenges encountered with the end of life
- Information about the National Dysphagia Diet and some revisions to the diet levels previously published in this book
- Updated reference list

Due to the expanded information in this edition, many of the pages previously included within the book (primarily reproducible pages) have been transferred to the enclosed CD (inside back cover). You will find a complete listing of the CD contents on page 6.

Speech-language pathologists are the preferred providers of services to patients with dysphagia. To remain in this position, we must continually update our knowledge and skills. I hope *The Source for Dysphagia: Third Edition* is one of the ways you will keep your skills on the cutting edge of dysphagia services. I also hope you'll take advantage of ASHA's Special Interest Division 13, Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders, which is a great value and an easy way to stay current in our area of practice.

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