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- Garry Pezzano, Vice President of Clinical Operations, Genesis Rehab Services

The Situation/Problem

Ashley Childs and Amy Kelly, two of Genesis Rehabilitation Services’ Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs), observed that the speech therapy materials for adults were very limited. The same observation drove Joanna Boyer and Terri Tarnoff Snyder, SLPs themselves, to launch Speech Remedy and develop the SR-Cognition Kit and materials.

Ms. Childs recalls, “the biggest reason for me to recommend the SR-Cognition kit was the extreme lack of appropriate and functional cognitive-linguistic assessment/therapy tools for the adult population. The materials we were using were old and out-dated. We started to create our own therapy materials to make our cognitive-linguistic therapy enjoyable and functional for our patients and residents. Being in a SNF, it was really hard to balance therapy time and developing a specific set of tools for each patient.”

Mary Lea Habegger, one of Genesis’ Clinical Specialists, notes that she had assembled her own toolkit over her 20 years of practice as an SLP. Still there were many needs left unfulfilled.

The Solution: The SR-Cognition Kit

Erin Knoepfel, Genesis Director of Clinical Services with 20 years of experience as an SLP, observed that the speech therapy tools available in different facilities were very inconsistent—ranging from just a clipboard in some cases to a reasonable set of tools elsewhere.

Genesis’ commitment to providing a robust set of tools for all of their SLPs in all of their facilities drove them to review and select the SR-Cognition kit as their standard tool.

“I love the product and think that all of our therapists should use it,” said Garry Pezzano, SLP and Vice President of Clinical Operations.

“SR-Cognition is a great asset for therapists. It provides the right tools in the right format so therapists can provide the best care,” said Dan Hirschfeld, President of Genesis Rehab Services.

Situation/Problem

Limited speech therapy tools to meet the needs of a diverse population; long-term care, assisted living, and independent living facilities.

Solution

An integrated kit (SR-Cognition) that provides a broad range of tools to meet the needs of the Genesis diverse population.

Results

- Greater efficiency and planning for therapists.
- Able to start therapy immediately upon completion of assessment.
- Care that meets the needs of the wide range of patients.

Mr. Pezzano observed, "It goes beyond stimulus materials. It provides suggestions for how therapists can best use the materials. This is because it was designed by therapists. It is the answer we were looking for. I recommend the SR-Cognition product to peers because it is important that clinicians share knowledge and great products."

"The SR-Cognition product enables us to provide standard tools and resources that meet the diverse needs of our geriatric population and 1000 SLPs for a reasonable price" said Pezzano. "The feedback from our employee satisfaction surveys is that our therapists are very satisfied with their jobs but they consistently ask for better tools and resources. When you make tools available to the staff, they feel better about their work."

"The SR materials provide patients excellent visual stimuli that is age-appropriate and relevant to the times. This makes it much easier to do orientation with patients" according to Pezzano.

Ms. Knoepfel said "it's a great tool, giving therapists the tools and strategies they need day 1. The kit allows therapists to plan more effectively. Not having to make up treatment tools saves time and provides better efficiency."

"The materials are relevant and up-to-date," said Habegger. The key features Childs likes are the portability, the age-appropriateness, and the wide variety of material that can be adjusted for high and low level populations. "The SR-Cognition kits significantly reduced set-up time; allowing more focus and time to be put into actually providing therapy. The ease of using the kit helps to specialize therapy treatments per individual and allows for growth and progress transitioning between levels. The activities make the therapy session less 'drill-like' and more fun and functional for the patient and me," said Childs.

Ms. Childs asserts one of her biggest areas of focus is for high-level cognitive patients and increasing their awareness of their cognitive deficits. "They enjoy to be involved in the plan of treatment and can see the progress as activities become easier. The kit is a valuable tool to provide point of service documentation and really increase the involvement of that high-level patient in their plan of care."

The kit is appropriate for low-level patients as well, according to Childs. "The activities are challenging and fun. I've had a lower level patient tell me, 'I really like these word questions. I think it's helping me!'"

Genesis' President, Hirschfeld, commented that Speech Remedy is "very professional and attentive. They are a pleasure to deal with."