Fast Facts Friday



SLP Outcomes ASHA NOMS Training Process and Follow-Up

The following information may or may not be appropriate to your clinical setting. Please review the information and determine the appropriateness of the content prior to sharing with your staff.

Eligible for LMS Credit: ✓ Yes

NEW TRAINING PROCESS: For SLPs not yet NOMS Registered Users

The ASHA NOMS training process includes outcomes training for all Speech Pathologists (active CCC) and Clinical Fellows (CFYs). ALL RehabCare SLPs with a current ASHA CCC or completing a CFY need to become registered NOMS users via completing the ASHA NOMS training BEFORE entering outcomes into SMART or FTS. SLP outcomes via the ASHA NOMS scoring system is now a REQUIRED component of clinical documentation by RehabCare, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as many additional private insurances.

Step 1: Obtain Access to the ASHA NOMS Training Website

For access to the NOMS website for training, FIRST contact Josie Moretti at Josie.Moretti@rehabcare.com.
ASHA NOMS Training site access may take up to one week. Josie will need the following information to grant access to the NOMS training site:

- 1. Your name
- 2. Your ASHA Membership # (If CFY indicate as such and provide NSSHLA # if applicable). If you are a CFY and a NSSHLA member include this number.
- 3. Facility name and address

Step 2: Complete NOMS Training

Once you have obtained access to the NOMS online training. Go to:

http://www.asha.org/members/research/NOMS/ and click on "Adult User Training" under the "Information for Current Participants" section, to complete the 2 hour self-study training course. You will be asked to provide your user name and password before entering the NOMS site. To create a user name and password, you will need to register with the ASHA website if you have not already done so. Follow the link for ASHA website registration to complete this process.

Step 3: Secure NOMS Access to SMART or FTS

For SMART Sites: Upon completion of the NOMS Training and before entering SLP outcomes into SMART, NOMS trained and registered SLPs should 1st check the SMART SLP outcomes section to determine if their ASHA NOMS Clinician ID number is already entered into SMART. If the NOMS Clinician ID number is not listed please email Josie.Moretti@rehabcare.com with the SLP's NOMS Clinician ID number AND the date the SLP passed the NOMS test. (The NOMS Clinician ID number is THE SAME AS the SLP ASHA member number found on the ASHA Membership Card)



For FTS Sites: Upon completion of the NOMS Training, an IS Security Request needs to be submitted for all NOMS Registered SLPs and Rehab Aides entering outcomes into **FTS** as a NOMS Registered User.

All SLP outcomes scores and information are entered into SMART or FTS ONLY and not the ASHA website. A Rehab Aide can assist the SLP in entering SLP outcomes information into SMART or FTS. SLPs may complete and provide an SLP Outcomes Worksheet (Available on Knect) to the Rehab Aide to assist in communicating NOMS information for data entry. The worksheets are optional. The information on the worksheets includes only NOMS fields that are not pre-populated in SMART. Details for all NOMS information, including medical diagnosis ranges, can be located and printed from the online ASHA NOMS training.

SLPs may use a 'SLP outcomes worksheet' (samples available from Josie Moretti) to communicate with Rehab Aides to enter NOMS information, track and organize SLP outcomes data entry.

Step 4: Begin Entering ASHA NOMS SLP Outcomes FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS

- Are SLP Clinical Fellows (SLP completing their Clinical Fellowship Year CFYs) eligible to complete
 ASHA NOMS training and score SLP outcomes? Yes, SLP Clinical Fellows are eligible to become NOMS
 Registered Users and should complete the training and enter outcome information just like CCC-SLPs.
- Can an SLP who has let their ASHA Certification CCC lapse complete training to become a NOMS
 Registered User? No, only SLPs with a current ASHA CCC can complete the NOMS training and become a
 NOMS registered user. ASHA membership is optional but a current / active ASHA CCC is mandatory for NOMS
 training.
- 3. If a facility does not have an SLP who is a NOMS Registered User because the SLP does not have a current / active ASHA CCC, how should SLP outcomes be scored? If a non-NOMS trained SLP completes an evaluation, treatment and discharge (or any combination thereof), another SLP / NOMS Registered User, familiar with the patient and able to review comprehensive documentation can score SLP outcomes in place of the non-NOMS trained SLP.
- 4. If a facility does not have an SLP who is a NOMS Registered User, how can the SLP complete G-code reporting? There are 2 options:

Option 1: ONLY for the purpose of G-code reporting, SLPs may chose from the 8 public domain NOMS Functional Communication Measure (FCMs) scales: Attention, Memory, Motor Speech, Reading, Spoken Language Comprehension, Spoken Language Expression, Swallowing, Writing.

Option 2: Although ASHA and RehabCare advocate for the use of NOMS, SLPs are not mandated to use NOMS to report G-codes/severity modifiers. Just as it is for ASHA certified NOMS users, it is up to the non-certified SLP to determine whatever tool or assessment measure is needed to evaluate the patient. Regardless of what assessment measure is used, the SLP must document the information in the medical record to justify the g-code and severity modifier chosen. Many assessment tools yield severity scales based on specifics test scores. Please refer to the RehabCare Assessment Tool Bank located Knect> Rehab> Clinical Services> Assessment for a comprehensive list of tests and tools.



ASHA NOMS are a critical component of RehabCare's clinical documentation in most settings. In order to use NOMS scores and report them to ASHA or for our company purposes, therapists must be NOMS certified. Even though NOMS registration through ASHA is not required for all G-code reporting, it is still an expectation/goal that all eligible therapists becomes NOMS registered clinicians.

- 5. If an SLP does not pass the NOMS test what happens? Each SLP has two attempts to take the NOMS test. If you do not pass the test on the 1st attempt, you will be scheduled to take the 2nd version within 24 hours, at which time an email will be sent to you with additional information about how to proceed. If you do not pass the 2nd version of the test, you will need to have a telephone consultation with the NOMS department in order to become certified. During this consultation, your understanding of the Functional Communication Measures (FCM) and their application will be assessed. You will receive instructions via email on how to schedule the appointment for the consultation.
- **6.** Will SLPs receive CEUs for the ASHA NOMS Training? ASHA has changed the procedure for NOMS CEUs. SLPs no longer have to fill out and return a paper CE Participant Form in order to earn the CEUs.
 - Each SLP who successfully completes the NOMS training will automatically earn 0.2 ASHA CEUs. If you subscribe to the ASHA CE Registry, the CEUs will be credited to your account/transcript within 24 hours. If you do not have a subscription to the CE Registry, your certificate of completion will serve as proof that you have successfully completed the training and have earned the aforementioned CEUs.
- 7. When entering SLP Outcomes I do not see the SLP's NOMS Clinician ID Number? What could be wrong? The NOMS Clinician ID Number has not been entered into SMART yet. Please email Josie.Moretti@rehabcare.com with BOTH:
 - The SLP NOMS Clinician ID number (same as ASHA membership number) AND
 - The date the NOMS test was passed by the SLP

The NOMS Clinician ID Number will only appear for those patients evaluated **AFTER** the NOMS certification date (typically this is the date the NOMS test has been passed). **Please only enter those patients evaluated AFTER** the NOMS certification date. The SLP NOMS Clinician ID number is not accessible before the NOMS certification date and outcomes should not be entered before the SLP was NOMS trained.

- 8. If an SLP has completed the NOMS training while working for a previous employer, does he/she need to repeat the training and/or notify ASHA of the change in employment?? SLPs do not need to repeat the NOMS training when changing employers. However, SLPs who complete the NOMS training are always linked to their original employer's account until informing ASHA that they have changed employers. If an SLP is in this situation, simply send an email to Josie Moretti at Josie.Moretti@rehabcare.com including the SLP ASHA number, RehabCare employee status, one primary facility name and address. ASHA will verify and add the SLP to the RehabCare list of registered NOMS users. This process may be followed at any time to update ASHA.
- **9.** Is an SLP NOMS Registered User required to take the NOMS training and test annually? No. Once the NOMS training and test is taken and passed, SLPs are not required to take the training or test again. If LMS credit is needed for repeated outcomes training, SLPs can review the training briefly at asha.org and complete an attendance roster for LMS credit.



10. ASHA indicates a patient must be seen for a minimum of 2 sessions in order to be eligible for ASHA NOMS scoring but I have been told to enter outcomes for all patients except those for evaluation only.... Which guideline do I follow since there is a 1-2 session difference? All SLPs need to follow the RehabCare requirement for outcomes data entry (enter all patients except those receiving evaluation only). RehabCare systems will communicate this change to ASHA electronically during data transfer between the RehabCare and ASHA systems.

Per the ASHA NOMS Training: "Any patient who is 16 years of age or older with a treatment plan **recommending** speech and language intervention for a minimum of two sessions is eligible for participation in NOMS data collection." Therefore, ALL patients receiving SLP services beyond evaluation should be entered into SMART or FTS for SLP outcomes for clinical areas treated. The only patients not appropriate for SLP outcomes entry are patients receiving an "eval only" and those patients with developmental disabilities.

- 11. What is the distinction between the ASHA NOMS Individual / Group versus Training Consultation treatment models? Patients must receive speech and language intervention using one of the two following treatment models:
 - a. <u>Individual and/or group treatment model:</u> The speech-language pathologist provides direct treatment to the patient on a one-on-one basis and/or in a group treatment format (two or more patients). Includes patients receiving co-treatment provided by two disciplines, as well as patients who are receiving services simultaneously, but working on different activities.

The **individual and/or group treatment model** is used when the SLP expects direct gains from the patient (NOMS level is anticipated to improve).

b. <u>Training and/or consultation model:</u> Speech and language intervention is provided to the patient, family, caregiver, or other related health professional to establish/modify a home program and/or to complete patient/caregiver training.

The **training and/or consultation model** is used when the SLP does not expect significant gains from the patient (NOMS level may decline or remain the same from eval to discharge). The focus of the treatment is to train caregivers as well as the patient to improve function, safety, and/or to modify the environment to maximize abilities.

12. Where can I find NOMS information and who can answer NOMS questions? If you have questions regarding SMART, NOMS & SMART please call Information Systems at 877.836.2678. If you have NOMS specific questions please contact your Clinical Performance Specialist. This SLP Outcomes training process and follow up information can also be found at Knect>Rehab Division>Nursing Center or Hospital Clinical Information>Clinical Services>Outcomes >Speech Pathology.