

# The S.A.F.E. Geriatric Neurorehabilitation Framework

Screen Early • Assess Comprehensively • Functional Interdisciplinary Intervention • Educate • Evaluate • Evolve

## Referral Optimization Framework

### PURPOSE

To establish standardized referral criteria that promote early identification of swallowing, communication, voice, and cognitive-communication disorders.

### WHO CAN REFER & AUTOMATIC REFERRAL CRITERIA

| Referral Source | Examples                              | Automatic Referral Criteria        |                                |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nursing         | Coughing, confusion, poor intake      | • New stroke                       | • Recurrent pneumonia          |
| PT / OT         | Dual-task deficits, cognition         | • Parkinson's disease              | • Communication decline        |
| Physician / NP  | Neurologic diagnosis, aspiration risk | • Dementia with functional decline | • Persistent cognitive changes |
| Dietary         | Weight loss, poor intake              | • Aspiration history               | • Feeding tube                 |
| Family          | Communication / swallow concerns      | • Modified diet                    | • Tracheostomy                 |

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES & IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST

| Outcome                         | Impact                       | Implementation Checklist    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Earlier identification          | Improved intervention timing | ■ Leadership approval       |
| Standardized referrals          | Reduced variability          | ■ Staff education           |
| Interdisciplinary communication | Better coordination          | ■ Workflow integrated       |
| Patient safety                  | Reduced complications        | ■ Documentation updated     |
|                                 |                              | ■ Audit metrics established |
|                                 |                              | ■ Quarterly review          |