

## George Barnes MS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S

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### Summary

George is a board-certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders, focusing on diagnostics and clinical decision-making. With a passion for food and a deep appreciation for the joy and connection it brings, he has dedicated his life to helping others enjoy this pleasure. With vast experience treating patients with high medical complexity across a variety of settings, George is uniquely qualified to serve as an expert medical witness and provide opinions in legal cases.

### Core Competencies & Skills

- **Leadership & Program Development:** Developed and implemented a FEES program and a speaking valve policy, initiated facility-wide FEES and oral care programs, and created and managed rehab programs to improve communication, safety, and quality of life for residents.
  - **Training & Mentorship:** Provided on-site education and training on evidence-based practices, trained staff on managing dysphagia and cognitive-communication deficits, and supervised clinical fellows.
  - **Professional Recognition:** Published writer and researcher on dysphagia-related projects.
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### Certifications & Professional Training

- **Board Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S)**, American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (ABSSD), Issued Jun 2022.
  - **Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC)**, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
  - **Registered MBSImP Clinician**
  - **FEES Competency**
  - **Award for Continuing Education (ACE)**, an eight-time recipient, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)
  - **Licensed to Practice in New Jersey:** 41YS00727400
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### Professional Experience

- **Speech-Language Pathologist Medical Expert Witness, SwallowStudy & Associates, LLC** (November 2022 – Present)

- Serves as an expert medical witness and forms opinions on legal cases regarding swallowing, airway protection, aspiration, aspiration pneumonia, choking, and cognitive-communication.
- **CEO, FEESible Swallow Solutions LLC** (February 2020 – Present)
  - Manages mobile FEES and speech pathology services.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Hackensack University Medical Center at Palisades** (December 2016 – Present)
  - Performs acute care swallow evaluations with MBSS and FEES.
  - Trains staff to work with patients with tracheostomy tubes and mechanical ventilation.
- **Lead Speech-Language Pathologist, Select Specialty Hospital of Northeast New Jersey** (September 2015 – September 2025)
  - Cooperates with an interdisciplinary team to wean patients from ventilators, tracheostomy tubes, and feeding tubes.
  - Implemented a speaking valve policy and procedure, and developed and implemented a FEES program.
- **Adjunct Professor, Seton Hall University** (December 2024 – Present)
  - Responsible for leading simulated clinical activities for the SLP graduate program.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation** (March 2016 – November 2024)
  - Lead SLP for conducting MBSS and training colleagues for MBSS competency.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Manager, and Clinical Supervisor, Genesis Rehab Services** (July 2012 – April 2018)
  - Skilled nursing (nursing home):
    - Evaluated and treated individuals with dysphagia and communication deficits.
    - Supervised clinical fellows and provided on-site education and training on evidence-based practice, compliance, and effective documentation.
    - Created and managed rehab programs to improve communication, safety, and quality of life for residents.
  - Assisted living:
    - Lead a team as rehabilitation manager, organizing programs and providing speech-language pathology services.
- **Adjunct Professor, Long Island University** (February 2016 – August 2016)
  - Instructed a graduate dysphagia course detailing anatomy, physiology, diagnostics, treatment, and ethical issues.
- **Speech-Language Pathologist, Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center** (June 2013 – February 2014)

- Evaluated and treated patients with swallowing, speech, language, and cognitive-communication deficits in acute care.

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## Volunteer & Service

- **ASHA 2026 Topic Committee**
  - Member of the ASHA 2026 Adult Swallowing Committee, responsible for peer-reviewing clinical submissions and curating invited sessions to ensure high-quality, evidence-based programming for the national convention.
- **Dysphagia Subcommittee Member, NJSHA New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (2021 - 2023)**
  - Developed and influenced change to improve the quality of care provided by medical speech-pathologists in New Jersey.
- **Editorial Committee Reviewer for Perspectives SIG13: Dysphagia, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2017 - 2019)**
  - Served as an editor for prospective research-based articles.
- **Student to Empowered Professional (STEP) Mentor, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2015 - 2018)**
  - Provided support and guidance to students pursuing a future in the field of speech-language pathology.
- **Peer Review Contributor, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) (2016 - 2018)**
  - Reviewed and provided feedback and critique for ASHA-sponsored continuing education courses.

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## Education

- **Mercy College**, Dobbs Ferry, NY: Master of Science in Communication Disorders, 2012
- **Marist College**, Poughkeepsie, NY: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, 2008

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## Presentations & Publications

- **Presentations**
  - **TIMS (2026):** Clinical Decision Making.
  - **Froedtert Hospital (2026 and 2024):** Clinical Decision-Making and Ethics in Dysphagia Management.

- **Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama** (2026 and 2024): Clinical Decision-making (Team Decisions).
- **National Foundation of Swallowing Disorders (NFOSD)** (2026, 2025, and 2024): Lingual Strengthening Therapy, Aspiration Pneumonia Management, and Improving Clinical Decisions.
- **University of South Alabama** (2025): Clinical decision-making.
- **Parkinson's Voice Project** (2025): Ethics in Dysphagia Management.
- **Medbridge** (2025, 2024, and 2023): Clinical Decision Making, Ethics in Dysphagia Management, Aspiration Pneumonia, and Medication-Induced Cognitive Deficits.
- **Iona College** (2025 and 2021): Airway Compromise and Aspiration Pneumonia.
- **Atlantic Health** (2025 and 2023): Aspiration Pneumonia Management and Clinical Decision-Making.
- **The University of Newcastle** (2024): Ethics in Dysphagia Management.
- **Swallow Your Pride Podcast** (2025, 2024, and 2022): Lingual Strengthening, Quantifying Aspiration Pneumonia Risk, and Speech Pathology Mentorship.
- **SpeechTherapyPD.com** (2024): Aspiration Pneumonia Management.
- **SpeechPathology.com** (2024 and 2023): Aspiration Pneumonia Management, Tracheostomy Tube and Mechanical Ventilation Management, and Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Seton Hall University** (2024 and 2023): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Patheous Health** (2024): Aspiration Pneumonia Management.
- **NYC Dysphagia Study Group** (2024): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Irish Adult Dysphagia Special Interest** (2024): Ethics in Dysphagia Management.
- **Annual Neuro-Rehabilitation Conference** (2024): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA)** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Northeastern University** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **New Jersey Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NJSHA)** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Med SLP Collective** (2026, 2023, and 2020): Aspiration Pneumonia Management, Clinical Decision-Making, and Tracheostomy Tube and Mechanical Ventilation Management.
- **Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA)** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making and Aspiration Pneumonia Management.
- **Hackensack University Medical Center** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Genesee Valley Speech Language Hearing Association (GVSLHA)** (2023): Clinical Decision-Making and Ethics in Dysphagia Management.

- **El Paso Speech-Language-Hearing Association (EPSHA) (2023):** Clinical Decision-Making and Aspiration Pneumonia Management.
- **Speech Uncensored (2022):** Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Private Practice Success Stories (2022):** Clinical Decision-Making.
- **MedSLP Ed (2022):** Aspiration Pneumonia and Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Dysphagia Cafe (2022):** Clinical Decision-Making.
- **Speech-Language-Hearing Association of Virginia (SHAV) (2021):** Quantifying Aspiration Pneumonia Risk.
- **New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NYSSLHA) (2021):** Quantifying Aspiration Pneumonia Risk.
- **Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) (2021):** Quantifying Aspiration Pneumonia Risk.
- **Publications**
  - **Reviewer: Adult Dysphagia Clinical Reasoning and Decision-Making Guide** (Plural Publishing Inc., 2024): Designed to help SLPs use clinical reasoning and critical thinking to assess and treat swallowing disorders in adults, using case studies and practical tools.
  - **Author: The Case for Instrumental Assessments** (ASHA Leader, July 9, 2023): Discusses how pointing out cost savings can help convince administrators of the value of instrumental swallow studies.
  - **Author: To Thicken or Not to Thicken: Exploring the Use of Math-Based Clinical Decision Making** (ASHA Wire, March 28, 2022): Explores the utility of Bayes' theorem for predicting the risk of pneumonia in dysphagia management.
  - **Author: An Overview of Tracheostomy Tubes and Mechanical Ventilation Management for the Speech-Language Pathologist** (ASHA Wire, August 20, 2021): A clinical focus article providing an overview for SLPs working with patients who have tracheostomy tubes and ventilators.
  - **Author: Communication Disordered: Program Implementation in Long-Term Care** (ASHA Wire, March 31, 2016): Details the importance of involving facility administration in policy-making to create successful clinical programs in long-term care settings.