



# CCD Publishing

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## **No Objection Letter Regarding the Use of the Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Functions Adult and Student Versions for Telehealth 01.04.2020**

Telehealth services are an important means for rehabilitation service delivery that can help to overcome challenges with transportation, access, and scheduling. The COVID-19 virus pandemic has underscored the value of telehealth as a service option in a health crisis. In order to support speech-language pathologists in their delivery of tele-health services CCD Publishing is issuing this letter of No Objection to permit the use of our copyrighted materials.

Qualified speech-language pathologists who have purchased the FAVRES or SFAVRES are hereby granted a limited and revocable permission to use appropriate telehealth software tools to assist in the remote administration of these tests with consideration of the following:

### **Considerations**

- The FAVRES and SFAVRES norms are based on In-Person assessment.
- There is some preliminary research of FAVRES utility in telehealth contexts (Rietdijk et al., 2020)
- Changes to test materials, administration instructions, and provision of additional supports to the examinee are not permitted. Examinees should have no one else in the room at time of the test administration
- Test integrity must be maintained. Standardized tests are only valid and clinically useful if they are not shared in the public domain. At no time should test materials be uploaded into the public domain or shared with a client, family, or others in electronic means that can be copied, distributed, or accessed later.
- The FAVRES and SFAVRES are speech-language pathology measures. The rationale for making them a discipline specific test is on our website [www.ccdpublishing.com](http://www.ccdpublishing.com)
- In person assessment is the optimal means of administering the FAVRES and SFAVRES and adapted assessment for telehealth is to be used only when in-person assessment is not possible.
- Regardless of whether administration is in-person or via telehealth, the FAVRES/SFAVRES can provide a standardized means of sampling cognitive-communication skills under challenging conditions.
- Therefore FAVRES/SFAVRES administration via telehealth, with stated caveats about administration changes, and safeguards regarding test integrity, is in keeping with evidence-based practice and preferable to assessment without standardization.

With these considerations in mind, the following recommendations are made.

## FAVRES/SFAVRES Telehealth Guidelines

1. Administer FAVRES/SFAVRES by telehealth only when in-person assessment is not possible
2. Recognize that FAVRES/SFAVRES norms are based on in-person assessment and document this change in administration and comment on potential effects on performance.
3. Only SLP's who have previously purchased the test may use it for telehealth purposes
4. Before test administration, the SLP must obtain documented agreement from the examinee that the session will not be recorded, reproduced or published, and that copies of the materials will not be made.
5. Permission **is** granted for use of screen share methods to remotely share test item content with examinees on a computer screen and capture responses either verbally or through other means. See description below.
6. Permission is **not** granted for
  - photocopying, scanning, or duplication of test protocols, screen capture or session recording
  - modification of the original test content or digitization or altering of test content
  - recording of live test administration by either examinee or examiner
  - persons other than the examinee and examiner to be present in the assessment session
7. CCD Publishing reserves the right to revoke this Limited Permission at any time in the interest of test content security and/or test validity and will review the ongoing status of this No Objection Letter as conditions require.

## Adapting FAVRES/SFAVRES Administration for Telehealth

- **Task Stimuli** -Can be shared via screenshare. Test materials have not been formatted for screenshare. Permission is granted for individual clinicians to reduce these pages for screensharing during video calls but not for sharing in any other manner before or after the assessment session. For task 1, Examiners will need to screenshare the 2 Entertainment pages in succession and to advise the examinee to toggle between page 1 and 2 as required. For tasks 2, 3, 4 there is one instruction page that can be screenshared.
- **Responses** – Show the examinee the response forms via screenshare and ask them to write their responses for each section on a separate paper or dictate their responses directly to the SLP or write on screen via annotation. The SLP can then transfer the response to the response form. Avoid electronic sharing or storage of responses. Care should be taken to ensure that their original response is destroyed (not shared) to maintain test integrity. Raw test materials should not become part of the health or legal record as they must first be interpreted by a qualified SLP. Only the Scoring Summary on page 3 of the Examiner's Booklet may be shared electronically.
- **Documentation** – Examiners should document changes in administration and discuss their potential impact on performance. It is anticipated that Time scores for example would be invalidated by the change in administration. Accuracy, Rationale, and Reasoning Subskills will continue to reflect strengths & weaknesses.
- **Screen-** To optimize the examinee's ability to see the stimuli it is recommended that they be advised to use a large screen device (laptop, desktop) for the assessment rather than a phone.

At CCD Publishing we recognize your commitment to assisting individuals with cognitive-communication disorders and adapting services to meet their needs. We are honoured to provide you with the tools to do so. Sincerely,



Sheila MacDonald  
President  
CCD Publishing

## References

Rietdijk, R., Power, E., Brunner, M., & Togher, L. (2020). Protocol for a clinical trial of telehealth-based social communication skills training for people with traumatic brain injury and their communication partners. *Brain Imp*, *21*, 110-123. doi:10.1017/BrImp.2019.9

Rietdijk, R., Power, E., Attard, M., Heard, R., and Togher, L., (2020) A Clinical Trial Investigating Telehealth and In-Person Social Communication Skills Training for People With Traumatic Brain Injury: Participant-Reported Communication Outcomes. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*.