

## Multidisciplinary Aquatic Therapy

### ORGANIZATION A

**-What does your treatment model entail (speech with OT, speech with PT)? How long has your program been in operation?**

We have SLP, OT, and PT in the pool. We normally do not do co-treats unless there is a very compelling reason to do so (such as need for extensive handling in the pool to be able to achieve SLP goals). Program has been in operation since 2010 with varying people providing services.

**-What age ranges do you typically see using this treatment model?**

Any patient that could benefit from aquatics is considered, depending on precautions and contraindications. Youngest I think we have had is about 8 months, up to 20 years.

**-How do you bill for your treatment sessions? Does each therapist split the time or bill for the entire session?**

If we do a co-treat, we would split the time. Our sessions are 30 minutes. If it would be a SLP/OT or PT co-treat the SLP would charge one unit of speech treatment and the PT/OT would charge 1 unit of aquatic exercise (97113).

If it's one therapist, the speech therapists just use their normal treatment codes, as they can't use 97113. OT's and PT's bill 97113 most often, unless at least ½ of the session was shore activities of another type.

**-Have you encountered any insurance coverage issues with this co-treat model?**

No, as long as both disciplines have appropriate authorizations.

**-What courses do you recommend for speech therapists to take regarding aquatic therapy?**

Aquatic Therapy for The Speech Therapist – Aquatic Therapy University

<https://swimatu.com/Course-Catalog/Pediatrics/Aquatic-Therapy-for-the-Speech-Therapist-p321.html>

This link is to the poly-clinic that you can bring to your site. They also have it periodically throughout the USA.

Also pretty much any class in pediatrics by Aquatic Therapy University.

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#### ORGANIZATION B

We only provide single discipline aquatic therapy, completed by OT or PT.

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#### ORGANIZATION C

- 1) Our treatment model in the pool is currently only PT. In the past we also offered OT and had Speech therapists on site. Occasionally a speech therapist might be pool side during an OT or PT session.
- 2) Our program started in 2001.
- 3) We see newborn through young adult. Occasionally we will have patients that are older than 21 – if they are still primarily being managed by the physicians at our hospital
- 4) We bill aquatic therapy, typically 3-4 units based on the amount of time spent with the patient.
- 5) We don't currently co-treat.
- 6) I do not have any recommendations on courses for speech therapists for aquatic therapy –my apologies.