

## Low Tech Communication Strategies

### STEP 1 – ASSESS

#### 1. ASSESS COGNITION

Is patient alert?

Can patient follow commands?

Raise your arm and make a fist.

Blink your eyes twice.

#### 2. ASSESS ORAL MOTOR SKILLS

Are patient's mouth movements clear when mouthing speech?

Count from 1 to 10.

Tell me what your first job was (in a sentence).

#### 3. ASSESS COMPREHENSION

Does the patient need support with comprehension?

Does the patient use glasses/hearing aid?

Are they available?

Any language barriers?

#### 4. ASSESS EXPRESSIVE COMMUNICATION

Does patient have a reliable yes and no signal?

How does patient signal yes? \_\_\_\_\_

How does patient signal no? \_\_\_\_\_

Can the patient point?

Point to your feet.

Point to your (name of family member) in person or in a photo.

Can the patient write?(assess literacy & motor ability)

Write your name.

Write your favorite color.

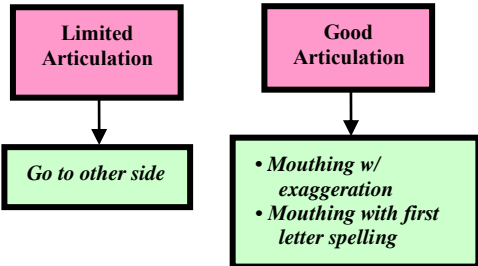
Assess language and literacy

Engage SLP or translator services if non-English speaking or illiterate.

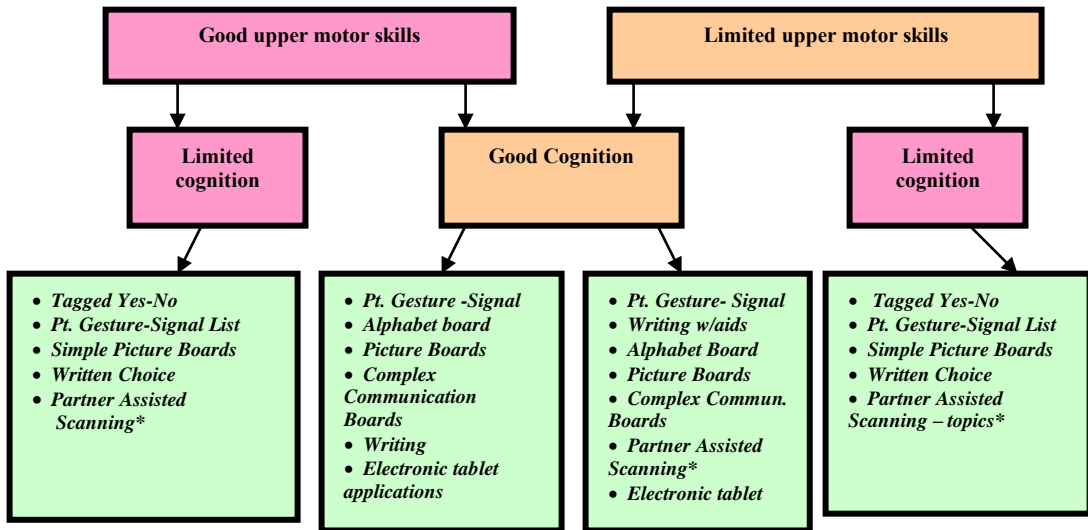
### STEP II - PROVIDE COMPREHENSION STRATEGIES

- Hearing Aids/Glasses
  - Audiology consult
- Get Attention & Face
- Pause Time
- Clear Yes/No
- Confirm Message
- Procedure Boards
- Written key words
- Nurse Gestures

### STEP III – CHOOSE STRATEGY BASED ON ORAL MOTOR SKILL



## STEP IV – CHOOSE STRATEGIES FOR EXPRESSIVE COMMUNICATION



\*Consult Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) for complex strategies or if selected strategies are unsuccessful.