### ALS Functional Communication Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Abilities &amp; Short Term Goals</th>
<th>Findings</th>
<th>Interventions</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alerting and Emergency</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Patient and caregiver can demonstrate or describe the method by which patient can **alert** others of basic and emergency needs within and outside of the home. | **Baseline Goal Status:** Dropdown (choose one)  
- Able  
- Unable | **Goal Status Achieved:** Dropdown (choose one)  
- Goal met  
- Ongoing  
- Goal not met | **Projected Goal Status:** Dropdown (choose one)  
- Goal met or projected to be met.  
- Goal not projected to be met. |
| **Findings:** Patient Dropdown (multiple choice)  
- has/doesn’t have effective means to alert others within the home,  
- has/doesn’t have methods in place to communicate outside of the home in the event of an emergency,  
- has/doesn’t have adequate hand and arm movement to operate standard phone and alerting system,  
- is always/not always/not able to be understood on the phone,  
- has respiratory mask or insufficiency that interferes with gaining attention throughout home,  
- spends time home alone,  
- is at risk for falls,  
- lives alone,  
- is wheelchair dependent, | **Interventions Provided:** Dropdown (multiple choice)  
- Gathered information about patient’s daily environments and physical abilities to determine his/her unique alerting needs.  
- Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.  
- Educated patient about Smart911/, text-to-911/, registering disabilities with local fire department.  
- Educated patient and caregivers about physically accessible in-home alerting system options.  
- Educated patient about emergency alert systems with GPS/, fall alert/, water resistance/, unmonitored auto dial.  
- Educated patient and caregiver about the options for using an SGD to alert others inside and outside of the home.  
- Provided/, demonstrated/, trained patient and caregiver on an in-home accessible alerting system including baby monitor/wireless doorbell/adapted call chime and ***switch/***. | **Recommendations:** Dropdown (multiple choice)  
- Based on today’s findings and interventions, this goal is met. Patient instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.  
- Patient and caregiver plan to practice use of alerting systems and will contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.  
- Patient plans to register with Smart911/, disabilities with local fire department.  
- Scheduled /referred patient for AAC or AT evaluation for physically accessible in-home alerting system.  
- Scheduled /referred patient for AAC or AT evaluation for accessible means to communicate outside of the home in an emergency.  
- Equipment recommended but NOT provided today include: ***.  
- Patient provided with source for obtaining/ borrowing equipment.  
- Goal is not projected to be met because***.  
- ***. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication Strategies</th>
<th>Baseline Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Goal Status Achieved: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Projected Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Recommendations: Dropdown (multiple choice)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Patient and communication partners demonstrate strategies via natural speech, low tech augmentative alternative communication (AAC) or Speech Generating Device (SGD) that improve communication success, efficiency, speed and reduce fatigue.</td>
<td>• can/cannot sustain effective speech throughout the day,</td>
<td>• Goal met</td>
<td>• Goal met or projected to be met.</td>
<td>• Based on today’s findings and interventions, this goal is met. Patient instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• demonstrates decreased articulatory precision,</td>
<td>• Ongoing</td>
<td>• Patient and communication partners plan to implement strategies learned today and will contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.</td>
<td>• Patient and caregiver plan to continue to customize layouts and add stored phrases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• is unintelligible and requires AAC,</td>
<td>• Goal not met</td>
<td>• Scheduled /referred patient for training in patient/partner strategies to improve communication when intelligibility is reduced.</td>
<td>• Scheduled /referred patient for training in energy conservation strategies including use of portable amplification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• intelligibility at today’s visit ***%,</td>
<td>• Evaluated patient’s Intelligibility, articulation and speech rate, and perceived communication effort.</td>
<td>• Scheduled /referred patient for training in communication strategies when using low tech AAC.</td>
<td>• Educated patient and caregiver about voice amplifier and hands free mic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• intelligibility drops to as low as ***% when fatigued, according to caregiver,</td>
<td>• Evaluated communication partners’ strategies for supporting patient’s communication.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Taught strategies for more effective phone use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• speech rate is at ***words per minute,</td>
<td>• Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Taught energy conservation strategies to patient and communication partner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• experiences communication breakdowns on the phone,</td>
<td>• Evaluated effectiveness of portable amplifier and hands free mic to improve communication outcomes and conserve patient’s energy.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Scheduled /referred patient for training in patient/partner strategies to improve communication when intelligibility is reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• demonstrates insufficient breath support to maintain speech successfully throughout the day,</td>
<td>• Taught patient and communication partner strategies for improving communication outcomes when intelligibility is reduced. Handout with patient and partner strategies provided to reinforce learning.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Educated patient and caregiver about voice amplifier and hands free mic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• has reduced loudness/, respiratory mask which interferes with communication,</td>
<td>• Taught energy conservation strategies to patient and communication partner.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Taught strategies for more effective phone use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• practices/would benefit from patient and partner speech strategies to reduce effort and improve communication outcomes.</td>
<td>• Taught energy conservation strategies to patient and communication partner.</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Taught energy conservation strategies to patient and communication partner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• effectively uses/may benefit from portable voice amplifier to reduce effort and improve communication,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Scheduled /referred patient for training in energy conservation strategies including use of portable amplification.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<pre><code>                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                              | • Educated patient and caregiver about voice amplifier and hands free mic.                                   |
</code></pre>
### Non-Voiced Communication (Low Tech/Quick Access)

3. **Patient demonstrates the ability to communicate novel messages** via spelling or combining words using **low tech AAC method**.

#### Baseline Goal Status:
- **Dropdown (choose one)**
  - Able
  - Unable

#### Findings: Patient...
- **Dropdown (multiple choice)**
  - is able/unable to communicate via writing,
  - has hand weakness resulting in reduced legibility and fatigue,
  - communicates by pointing with *** on *** communication board,
  - communicates via partner assisted scanning (PAS),

#### Goal Status Achieved:
- **Dropdown (choose one)**
  - Goal met
  - Ongoing
  - Goal not met

#### Interventions Provided:
- **Dropdown (multiple choice)**
  - Evaluated patient’s needs and ability to communicate via low tech AAC.
  - Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.
  - Introduced low tech, physically accessible communication options.

#### Projected Goal Status:
- **Dropdown (choose one)**
  - Goal met or projected to be met.
  - Goal not projected to be met.

#### Recommendations:
- **Dropdown (multiple choice)**
  - Based on today’s findings and interventions, this goal is met. Patient instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.
  - Patient and caregiver plan to practice use of low tech AAC and will contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.

- **Provided/, demonstrated/, and trained patient and caregiver on use of voice amplifier and hands free microphone.**
- **Taught patient and caregiver strategies for low tech AAC system including coding systems/, modified layout/, inclusion of partner tips/, ***.**
- **Assisted patient to develop list of common and useful topics and phrases for AAC system.**
- **Taught patient and caregivers how to use strategies for more efficient use of SGD including storing messages/, word prediction/, abbreviation expansion/, core vocabulary, stored partner tips/, attention chime/, ***.**
- **Customized AAC layout to better meet patient’s needs.**
- **Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.**
- **Scheduled /referred patient for training in communication strategies when using SGD.**
- **Equipment recommended but NOT provided today include: ***.**
- **Patient provided with source for obtaining/ borrowing equipment or template.**
- **Goal is not projected to be met because***.

- **current low tech communication method, using ***, meets their needs/ is fatiguing/, is slow/, is inadequate according to patient and caregiver.**
- **practices/would benefit from training in strategies for low tech AAC.**
- **current high-tech communication method, using ***, meets their needs/ is fatiguing/, is slow/, is inadequate according to patient and caregiver.**
- **practices/would benefit from SGD strategies to increase speed and reduce effort when communicating.**
- *****.**
- **Provided/, demonstrated/, and trained patient and caregiver on use of voice amplifier and hands free microphone.**
- **Taught patient and caregiver strategies for low tech AAC system including coding systems/, modified layout/, inclusion of partner tips/, ***.**
- **Assisted patient to develop list of common and useful topics and phrases for AAC system.**
- **Taught patient and caregivers how to use strategies for more efficient use of SGD including storing messages/, word prediction/, abbreviation expansion/, core vocabulary, stored partner tips/, attention chime/, ***.**
- **Customized AAC layout to better meet patient’s needs.**
- **Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.**
- **Scheduled /referred patient for training in communication strategies when using SGD.**
- **Equipment recommended but NOT provided today include: ***.**
- **Patient provided with source for obtaining/ borrowing equipment or template.**
- **Goal is not projected to be met because***.

- **current low tech communication method, using ***, meets their needs/ is fatiguing/, is slow/, is inadequate according to patient and caregiver.**
- **practices/would benefit from training in strategies for low tech AAC.**
- **current high-tech communication method, using ***, meets their needs/ is fatiguing/, is slow/, is inadequate according to patient and caregiver.**
- **practices/would benefit from SGD strategies to increase speed and reduce effort when communicating.**
- *****.**
### Speech Generation

#### 4. Patient demonstrates the ability to communicate **novel messages** via natural or synthesized speech with SGD or text-to-speech (TTS) app.

#### Baseline Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)
- Able
- Unable

#### Findings: Patient... Dropdown (multiple choice)
- Uses speech to communicate effectively throughout the day/with occasional requests for repetition/with frequent requests for repetition.
- Is unable to communicate effectively throughout the day/, with certain partners/, in some environments with speech alone.
- Is unintelligible and requires AAC, has speech rate of under 125 words per minute, which, according to research†, predicts rapid decline in

#### Goal Status Achieved: Dropdown (choose one)
- Goal met
- Ongoing
- Goal not met

#### Intervention Provided: Dropdown (multiple choice)
- Evaluated patient’s ability to produce messages via natural or synthesized speech.
- Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.
- Provided SGD education.
- Educated patient and caregiver about alternative access for SGDs.
- Introduced TTS and tablet options that would be physically accessible.

#### Projected Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)
- Goal met or projected to be met.
- Goal not projected to be met.

#### Recommendations: Dropdown (multiple choice)
- Based on today’s findings and interventions, this goal is met. Patient and caregiver are instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.
- Patient plans to use SGD/TTS app with *** access in daily environments. Patient and caregiver are instructed to contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.
- Scheduled/referred patient for SGD evaluation.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication at a Distance</th>
<th>Baseline Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Goal Status Achieved: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Projected Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Recommendations: Dropdown (multiple choice)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient demonstrates abilities to use all the methods s/he requires to communicate with those at a distance.</td>
<td>Able</td>
<td>Goal met</td>
<td>Goal met or projected to be met.</td>
<td>Based on today's findings and interventions, this goal is met. Patient and caregiver are instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Findings: Patient... Dropdown (multiple choice)</td>
<td>Unable</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Goal not projected to be met.</td>
<td>Patient plans to use methods learned today to communicate with people outside his/her immediate environment. Patient and caregiver are instructed to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervention Provided: Dropdown (multiple choice)</td>
<td>Has ability to communicate with those at a distance via multiple methods that meet the patient’s communication needs.</td>
<td>Evaluated patient’s ability to communicate with partners at a distance via a variety of communication methods.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Is experiencing challenges communicating via landline/, cell phone/, texting, emailing/, social media/, ***.</td>
<td>Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Educated patient and caregivers about State Telephone Access Program.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

intelligibility and therefore SGD evaluation is required.
- has *** SGD with *** access which provide a successful means of communication/ but is experiencing challenges with this system/ but is unable to use this system,
- has *** tablet with *** app and *** access method which provide a successful means of communication/ but is experiencing challenges with this system/ but is unable to use this system,
- is having problems with *** access method for SGD or tablet,
- does not have a speech generating device or tablet communication system,
- ***.

- Explained the SGD evaluation process including clinical trials with various alternative access and speech devices.
- Evaluated patient for SGD/, TTS app/, tablet/, physical access/ and mounting system and recommended ***.
- Trained patient and caregiver on use of *** SGD.
- Trained patient and caregiver on use of *** tablet and *** app for speech generation.
- Trained patient and caregiver on use of *** alternative access so that patient can physically access speech device.
- Made adjustments to speech device settings/, access method/, software/, mounting/, ***.
- Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.
- ***.

- Scheduled /referred patient for alternative access evaluation.
- Scheduled /referred patient for training on use of speech device.
- Recommended equipment will be/has been submitted for insurance and other funding.
- Patient and caregiver will be provided with SGD training once equipment is delivered.
- Equipment or app recommended but NOT provided today include: ***. Patient provided with source for obtaining/ borrowing this app or equipment.
- Goal is not projected to be met because ***.
- ***.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Operational Competency</th>
<th>Baseline Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Goal Status Achieved: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
<th>Projected Goal Status: Dropdown (choose one)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. Patient and caregiver demonstrate the ability to independently set up, position, and customize recommended low and high tech augmentative.</td>
<td>Able</td>
<td>Goal met</td>
<td>Goal met or projected to be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unable</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Goal not projected to be met.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Findings:</strong> Patient... Dropdown (multiple choice)</td>
<td>has no AAC equipment needs at this time.</td>
<td>Goal not met</td>
<td>Recommendations: Dropdown (multiple choice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>does not need SGD but requires training in methods, equipment, and</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Based on today’s findings, this goal is currently met and no interventions are required at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Educated patient and caregivers about options to make landline/, cell phone/, texting/, emailing/, social media/, *** accessible.
- Customized communication software to enable access to landline/, cell phone/, texting/, emailing/, social media/, *** and provided training on use.
- Provided equipment including *** to enable physical access to landline/, cell phone/, texting/, emailing/, social media/, *** and provided training in use.
- Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC or AT specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.
- ***.

- Contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.
- Provided referral to State Telephone Access Program for evaluation and equipment.
- Scheduled /referred patient for evaluation to determine specific strategies and equipment required to enable communication with partners at a distance.
- Patient and caregiver will be taught how to use SGD to communicate with partners at a distance once SGD is delivered.
- Scheduled /referred patient for training and system customization of SGD to enable communication with partners at a distance.
- Equipment recommended but NOT provided today include: ***.
- Patient provided with source for obtaining/ borrowing this equipment.
- Goal is not projected to be met because***.

**Goal is met**.
**Patient Name: _____________________**  
**Date: _____________________**

**Prepared for Future Changes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Findings: Patient...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td><strong>Baseline Goal Status:</strong> Dropdown (choose one)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Able</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Findings:</strong> Patient...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dropout (multiple choice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>has a diagnosis of ALS which usually results in progressive speech impairment and often</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal Status Achieved:** Dropdown (choose one)

- Goal met
- Ongoing
- Goal not met

**Intervention Provided:** Dropout:

- Evaluated oral motor and speech abilities to determine patient’s current

**Projected Goal Status:** Dropdown (choose one)

- Goal met or projected to be met.
- Goal not projected to be met.

**Recommendations:** Dropout (multiple choice)

- Based on today's findings and interventions, this goal is met.

**Communication equipment.**

- software for message/, voice banking.
  - has AAC equipment and patient and caregiver can/can’t independently set up, position, customize and use the system.
  - requires but has not received/been assessed for AAC equipment.
  - ***.

- Provided equipment today including ***.
- Trained patient and caregiver on operation of voice amplifier and mic placement.
- Provided instructions/hands on training on the process, equipment, software for voice/, message banking.
- Provided training to patient and caregiver to set up/, position/, customize *** SGD with *** access.
- Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC or assistive technology specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.
- ***.

- Patient plans to begin voice/ message banking independently using *** and will contact SLP with any questions or challenges.
- Scheduled/referred patient for hands on training on the process, equipment, software for voice/, message banking.
- Patient and caregiver plan to set up, position and continue to customize AAC equipment and will contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.
- Scheduled/referred patient for patient and caregiver training to independently set up, position, and customize equipment.
- Patient and caregiver will be taught to set up, position and customize equipment once it is delivered.
- Equipment recommended but NOT provided today include: ***.
- Patient provided with source for obtaining/borrowing this equipment.
- Goal is not projected to be met because***.
- ***.
access changes associated with ALS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loss of speech and reliance on augmentative alternative communication,</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- has AAC systems in place that are accessible and meets patient’s comprehensive communication needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- speech changes were first noted in ***.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- upper extremity weakness was first noted in ***.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has/hasn’t been educated about typical changes in speech with ALS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has/hasn’t been educated about the need for a proactive approach for acquiring equipment and preparing for changes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has/hasn’t completed message banking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- has/hasn’t completed voice banking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- demonstrates a speech rate that indicate that an evaluation for speech generating device should be completed†.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Is beginning to have difficulty accessing AAC systems using ***.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ***.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of functioning and reviewed progress of speech changes over time to counsel patient about the nature and rate of speech change.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Evaluated patient’s changing physical abilities to determine if a new AAC access method should be introduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Based on today’s assessment it was determined that goal is currently met and no intervention required at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Educated patient about future access options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Educated patient and caregivers about the necessity of alerting SLP if any current communication methods begin to become difficult or fatiguing to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Educated patient about message/, voice banking and discussed the purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Explored messages that would be meaningful for patient and caregiver for message banking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discussed transitioning to new access method since *** access is becoming difficult and may soon be impossible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Informed patient and caregiver about local AAC or AT specialists who provide services they require to meet this goal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Conveyed findings and intervention to physician and discussed recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- ***.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALS FCS Score</th>
<th>Severity Modifiers</th>
<th>Baseline Status of ALS FCS Goals: ___ / 7</th>
<th>Today’s Achieved Goals Status: ___ / 7</th>
<th>Projected Goals Status: ___ / 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>CH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>CI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corresponding G-Code: C___ for G9174</th>
<th>Corresponding G-Code: C___ for G9176</th>
<th>Corresponding G-Code: C___ for G9175</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Patient instructed to contact SLP if needs or abilities change.

- Patient and caregiver have a plan for completing message/, voice banking and will contact SLP if they have any questions or challenges.
- Patient plans to begin using new SGD access method and will contact SLP or vendor if they have any questions or challenges.
- Scheduled /referred patient for guidance with message/, voice banking.
- Scheduled /referred patient for re-evaluation of SGD access.
- Scheduled /referred patient for SGD evaluation.
- Patient has been REFERRED TO *** to receive the AAC or AT services recommended but not provided today.
- Goal is not projected to be met because***.
- ***.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (5/7)</th>
<th>Patient ID (CJ)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>CK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>CL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/7</td>
<td>CM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-1/7</td>
<td>CN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


ALS Functional Communication Scale Developed by Amy Roman, M.S., CCC-SLP