



**ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER**

**University of Texas MD
Anderson Cancer Center**

Intermediate Level

.15 ASHA CEUs

Complexity of Care and Ethical Decision Making in H&N Cancer

Available until 12/31/2026

Level: Intermediate

Course Structure:

This course is an asynchronous course, available on-demand. Participants will have the opportunity to complete course requirements via recorded webinar.

Course Description:

Participants receive a primer on clinical ethics in the head and neck cancer population and serious illness communication (SIC) training. Participants learn SIC concepts and tools to implement SIC into the clinic setting to support ethical clinical decision making for speech and swallowing therapy. Reflection on interprofessional, patient and family-based ethical-decision making will be discussed.

Course Objectives:

1. Apply ethical best practices surrounding active cancer treatment, palliative, and quality of life decisions to head and neck cancer scenarios commonly encountered by speech pathologists.
2. Describe communication strategies to facilitate serious illness care goals and best practices.
3. Describe SIC as a speech-language pathologist treating patients during active cancer care and/or survivorship.

Agenda:

- 0-5 Introduction (Hutcheson)
- 5-20 Clinical ethics in head and neck cancer care (McCommon)
- 20-35 Serious Illness Communication (SIC): A primer (Jacobson)
- 35-65 Case presentation by HN Oncology SLPs (Blumenfeld/McMillan)
- 65-90 Q&A with panelists (McCommon, Jacobsen, McMillan, Blumenfeld)

No partial credit will be given for this course.

Completion Requirements:

In order to receive ASHA CEUs, you must complete the following—

1. Watch the webinar in full, which will be monitored through the website.
2. Complete a post-course evaluation and survey within 48 hours of watching the webinar in full.
3. The post-course assessment will include a multiple-choice test, which must be completed with 100% accuracy. The learner will have unlimited attempts.

[Link to Post-Course Evaluation](#)

Policies: Please see home page

Bios/Disclosures:

Dr. Kate Hutcheson

Dr. Kate Hutcheson is a tenured Professor and Deputy Director of Clinical Research in the Department of Head and Neck Surgery with dual appointment in the Division of Radiation Oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She serves as Section Chief and Research Director for the Section of Speech Pathology and Audiology. Dr. Hutcheson is a certified speech-language pathologist practicing in oncology for 19 years, a Board-Certified Specialist in Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders (BCS-S) and holds a Doctorate Degree in Epidemiology. She leads an internationally recognized, extramurally funded clinical research program. She has authored over 175 journal articles with funding support from the National Institutes of Health, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Award program, and the CPRIT UT Health Innovation Training Program. She is an Associated Editor for the Head and Neck and Dysphagia journals. She is a passionate clinician and educator who lectures nationally and internationally on radiation associated dysphagia and head and neck cancer rehabilitation.

Disclosures: Dr. Hutcheson receives research funding from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (R01CA271223, R01CA273984), Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI 1609-36195), the MD Anderson Institutional Research Grant Program, and Atos Medical. Unrestricted Educational Grant outside this Program from Atos Medical. Developer and PI of the DIGEST method. Dr. Hutcheson receives no royalties or personal fees related to this DIGEST content.

Dr. Susan McCammon

Dr. McCammon is the John W. Poynter Professor of Otolaryngology, Director of the Division of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, Director of the Pat and Jean Sullivan Comprehensive Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship Clinic, and Associate Medical Director of the UAB Clinical Ethics Program at the University of Alabama – Birmingham.

Disclosures: Dr. McCammon is employed by the University of Alabama – Birmingham and receives a salary. She has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Dr. Juliet Jacobsen

Dr. Jacobsen is a palliative care clinician educator and researcher interested in communication about serious illness and early palliative care interventions. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and lives in Sweden, where she is a researcher at the Lund University. Her recent book, *What's in the Syringe? Principles of Early Integrated Palliative Care* (OUP, 2021), details a successful palliative care intervention first piloted at Massachusetts General Hospital, where Dr. Jacobsen worked as a clinician for many years.

Disclosures: Dr. Jacobsen is employed by Harvard Medical School and receives a salary. She has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Holly McMillan, MCD, CCC-SLP

Ms. McMillan is a Senior Speech Language Pathologist and Co-Director of Trismus Clinic at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. She is a doctoral student at the University of Texas School of Public Health, a licensed massage therapist, and certified lymphedema therapist with expertise in oncology and head and neck cancer rehabilitation. Ms. McMillan serves as lead clinician on, and active NIH funded clinical trial examining manual therapy for late effect dysphagia and is a collaborator on several NIH funded clinical trials in head and neck cancer survivorship.

Disclosures: Ms. McMillan is employed by MD Anderson Cancer Center and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.

Liza Blumenfeld, MA, CCC-SLP

Ms. Blumenfeld is a speech pathologist and researcher at UC San Diego Health in San Diego, CA.

Disclosures: Ms. Blumenfeld is employed by UC San Diego Health and receives a salary. She has no relevant non-financial relationships to disclose.