

FCM: Augmentative/Alternative Communication Comprehension*

Target Population: Individuals who use a symbolic system, such as an electronic or manual system, as their primary means of input.

- Level 0** **Independent:** Comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication is functional for events in the environment in all situations.
- Level 1** **Mild:** Comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication is effective for events in the environment in most situations, although slight difficulty may occur in ability to self-monitor. Cueing is seldom required. Self-monitoring is evident approximately 90% of the time.
- Level 2** **Mild-Moderate:** Comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication is good but limited by complexity of form, content, and/or use. Occasional cueing and/or assistance is required. Self-monitoring is evident approximately 75% of the time.
- Level 3** **Moderate:** Comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication is limited to routine events, simple novel communication, and some more complex forms. Intermittent cueing in the form of repetition or rephrasing of stimuli, or redirection and assistance is required to comprehend. Self-monitoring is evident approximately 50% of the time.
- Level 4** **Moderate-Severe:** Comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication is limited to routine events in restricted contexts and does not include comprehension of novel communication. Consistent environmental cueing and assistance is required to comprehend. Self-monitoring is evident approximately 25% of the time.
- Level 5** **Severe:** Limited comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication relative to events in the environment. Always requires environmental cueing and maximum assistance to comprehend. No self-monitoring.
- Level 6** **Profound:** No comprehension of augmentative/alternative communication.

*Adapted from The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) National Treatment Outcome Data Collection Project, 1997.