

# The Voice Evaluation

(You Got This!)

Judith A. Fornadley, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Ochsner Voice Center

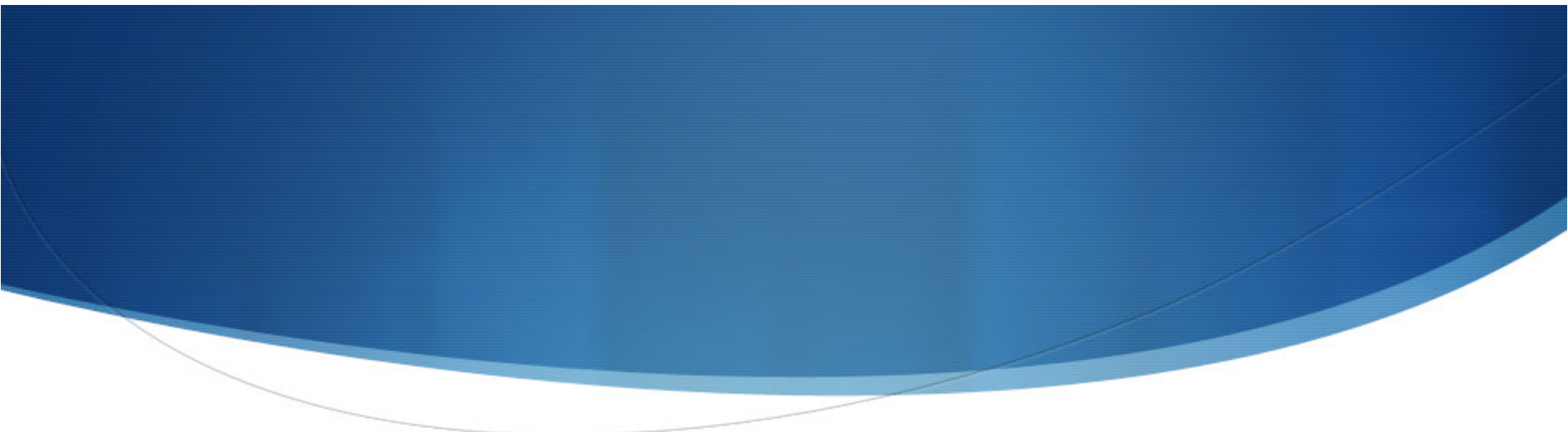


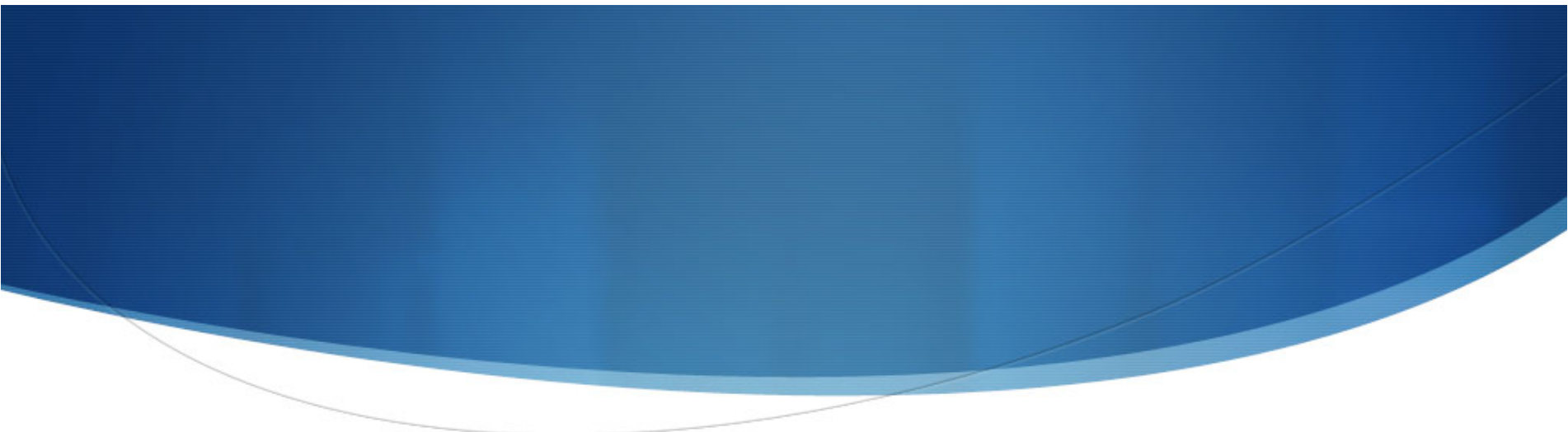
# Disclosures

- ◆ Financial
  - ◆ Salary from Ochsner
- ◆ Non-financial
  - ◆ LSHA Board member

Don't Panic!



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- ◆ Considerations for voice therapy
  - ◆ Components of a thorough voice evaluation
  - ◆ Stimulability testing
  - ◆ Therapy recommendations
  - ◆ Billing/coding

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Normal (ish)



# Considerations: ENT referral

- ◆ Audience?

# Considerations: ENT referral

- ◆ ASHA position statement
  - ◆ All patients/clients with voice disorders are examined by a physician, preferably in a discipline appropriate to the presenting complaint. The physician's examination may occur before or after the voice evaluation by the speech-language pathologist.
    - ◆ Does not specify laryngoscopy/videostroboscopy
- ◆ Consider insurance requirements
- ◆ Personal protocol



# Voice samples

1



2

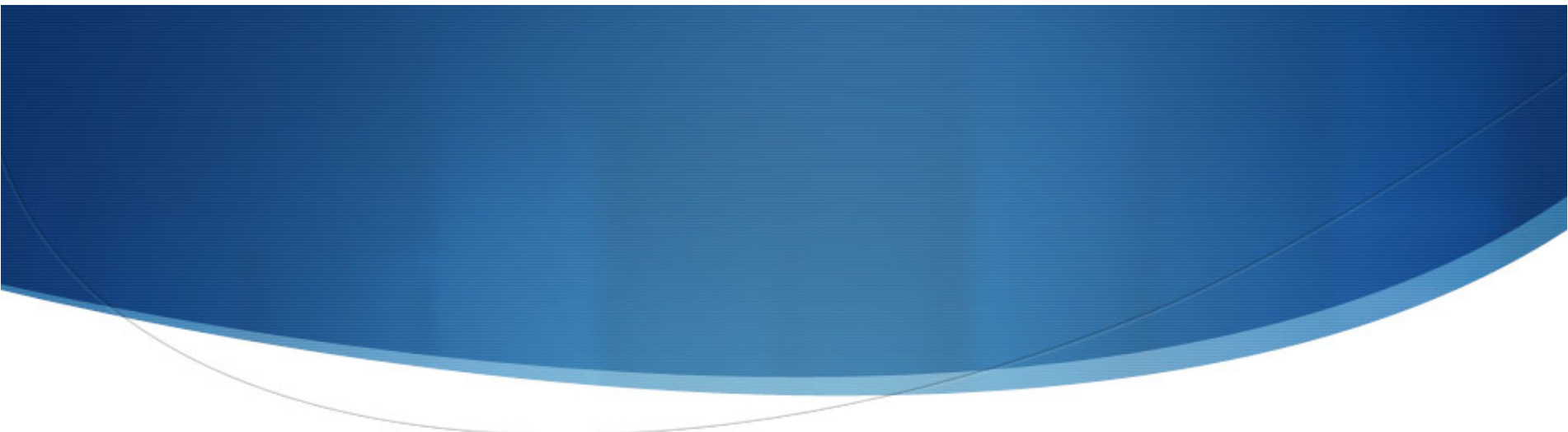


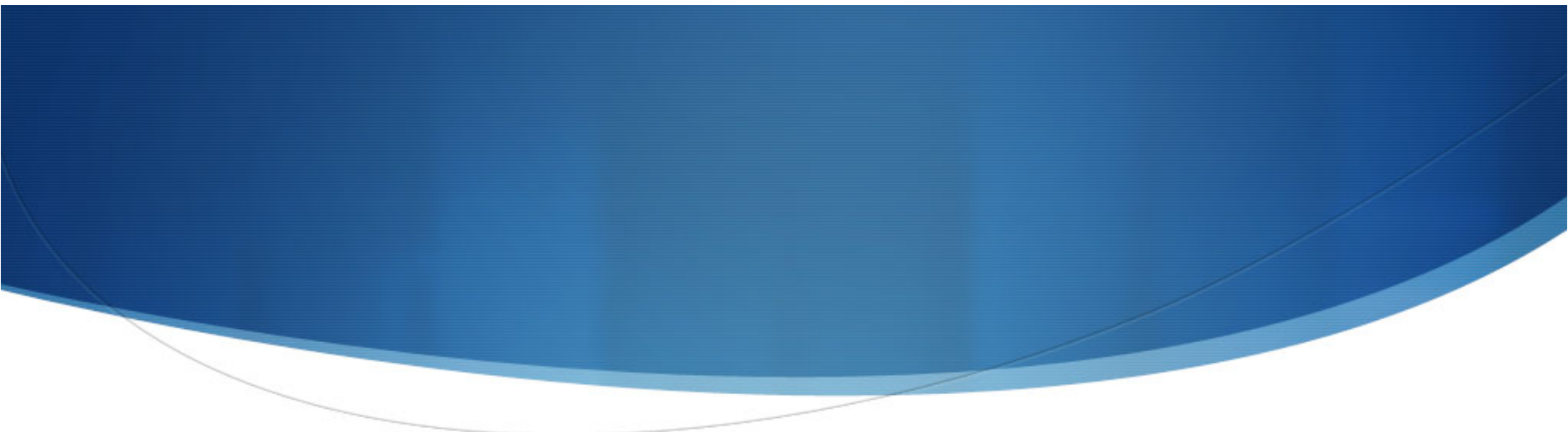
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# Voice evaluation: components

- ◆ Case/medical history
- ◆ Perceptual assessment
- ◆ Stimulability testing
- ◆ Readiness for change
- ◆ Recommendations and plan

# Case history

- ◆ Voice history
  - ◆ What bothers you about your voice?
  - ◆ Financial and non-financial needs for voice
  - ◆ Onset of voice change
  - ◆ Persistent vs. intermittent change
  - ◆ Vocal hygiene
  - ◆ Smoking status

# Case history

- ◆ Medical/surgical history
  - ◆ Relevant surgeries
    - ◆ Head, neck, chest, spine
    - ◆ Intubations
  - ◆ Relevant medications
  - ◆ Relevant diagnoses
    - ◆ ENT diagnosis?
    - ◆ Broad vs. general

# Acoustic/aerodynamic assessment

- ◆ Acoustic: CSL, VisiPitch, Praat
  - ◆  $f_0$
  - ◆ Pitch range
  - ◆ Jitter/shimmer
- ◆ Aerodynamic: PAS
  - ◆ Expiratory airflow
  - ◆ Peak air pressure
  - ◆ Expiratory volume
  - ◆ Mean airflow during voicing

# Perceptual assessment

- ◆ Description of voice qualities which are variable from person to person, or contribute to the patient's reported dysphonia
  - ◆ Quality
    - ◆ Breathy
    - ◆ Strained
    - ◆ Rough/gravelly
    - ◆ Resonance
  - ◆ Loudness
  - ◆ Pitch
  - ◆ Flexibility
  - ◆ Stability

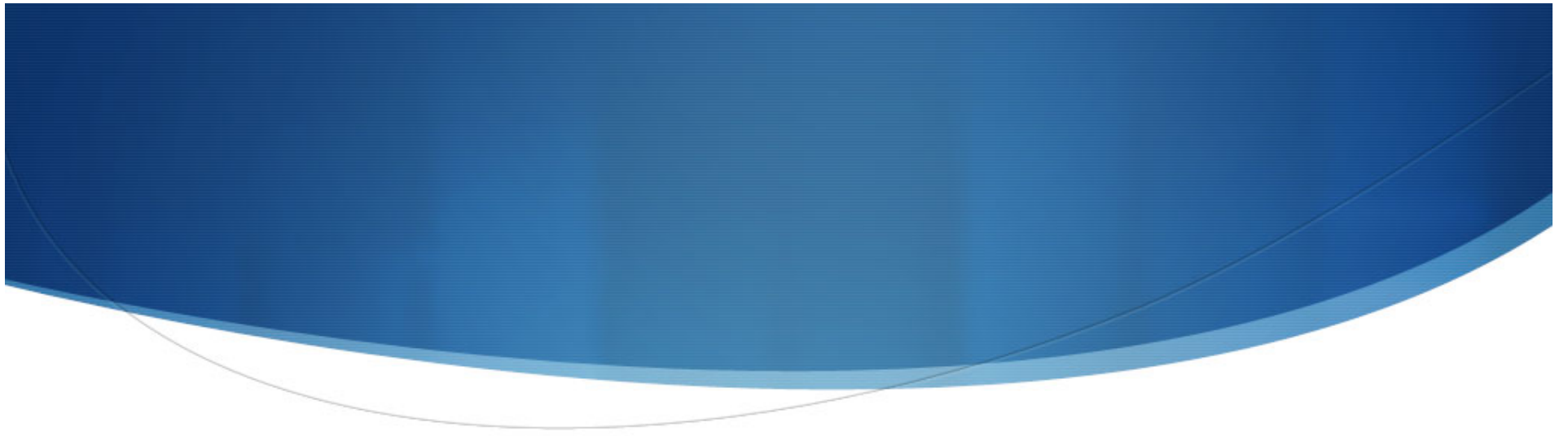


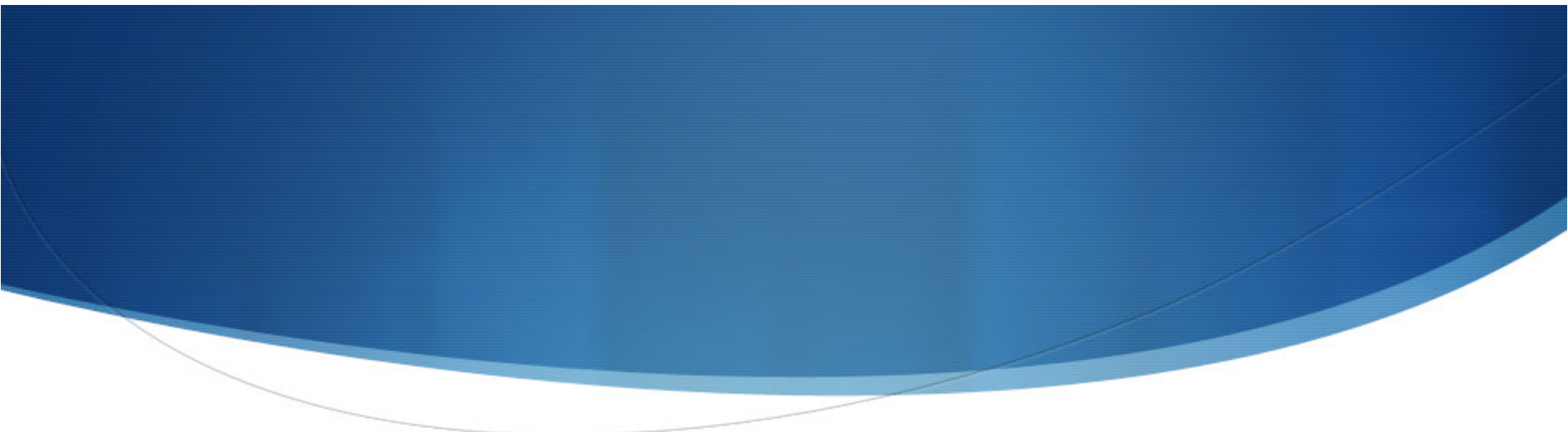


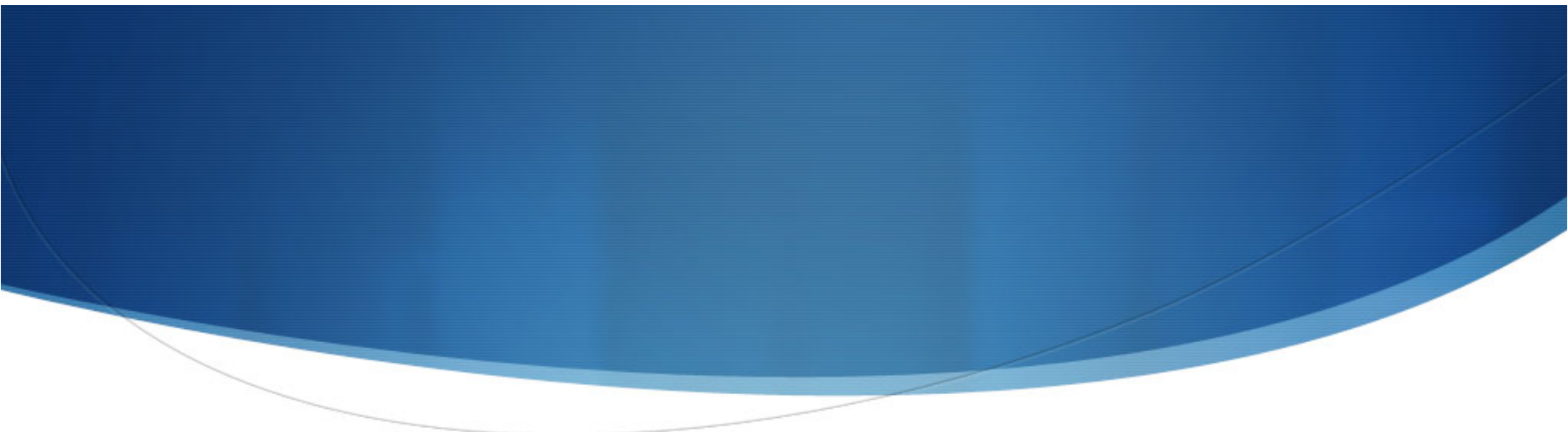
**hoarse**



hoarse



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# Stimulability testing

- ◆ Is the patient able to achieve a better/different voice?
- ◆ Consider the diagnosis!
  - ◆ Hierarchy: sound, CV sound, CVCV sound, word, short rote phrase, longer phrase, ... → connected speech
    - ◆ Speech activities
    - ◆ Projection
    - ◆ Overarticulation
    - ◆ Imitation / “Twang”
  - ◆ Non-speech activities
    - ◆ Semi-occluded vocal tract exercises
    - ◆ Resonant voice exercises
    - ◆ Throat clearing, laughing, humming

# Stimulability testing

- ◆ What does it mean if the patient is able to achieve a better (or different) voice?
- ◆ It probably means that they are a good candidate for voice therapy.
- ◆ (...but what if they're not?)

# Voice samples

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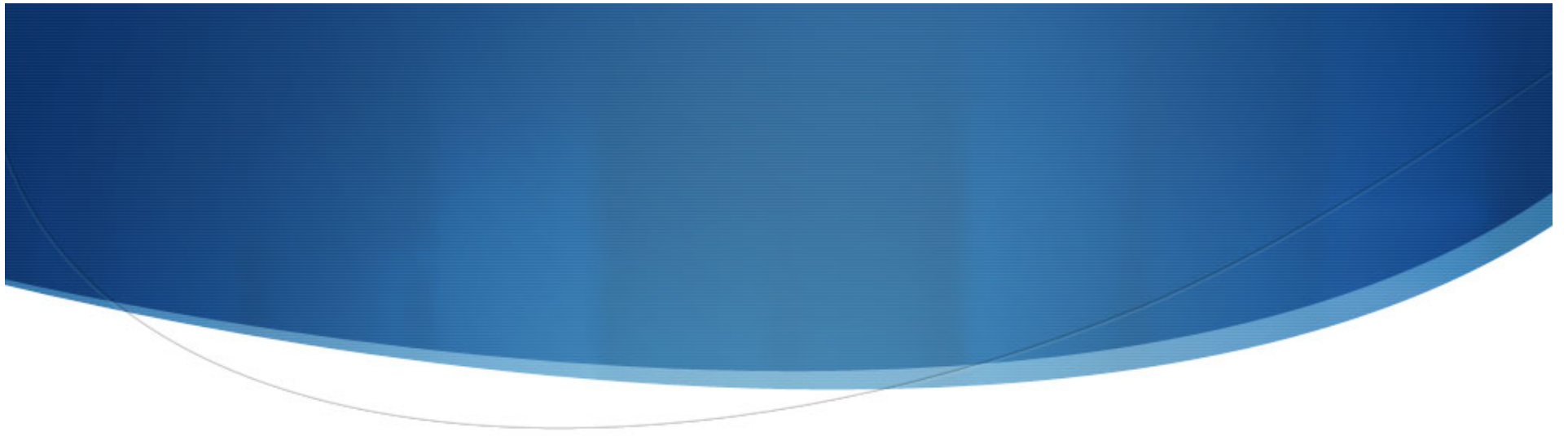


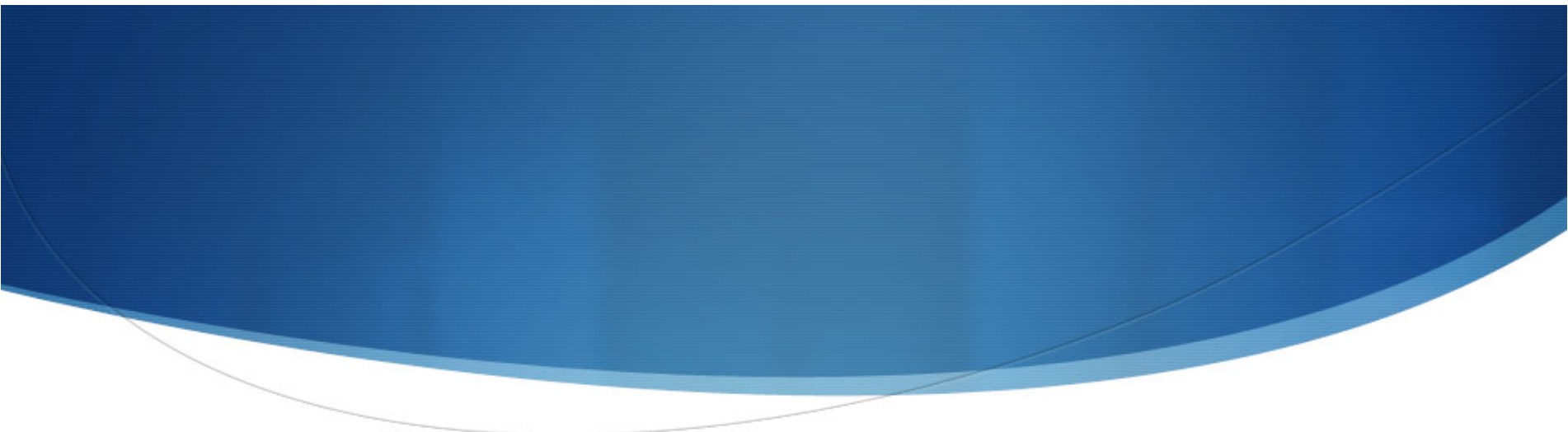
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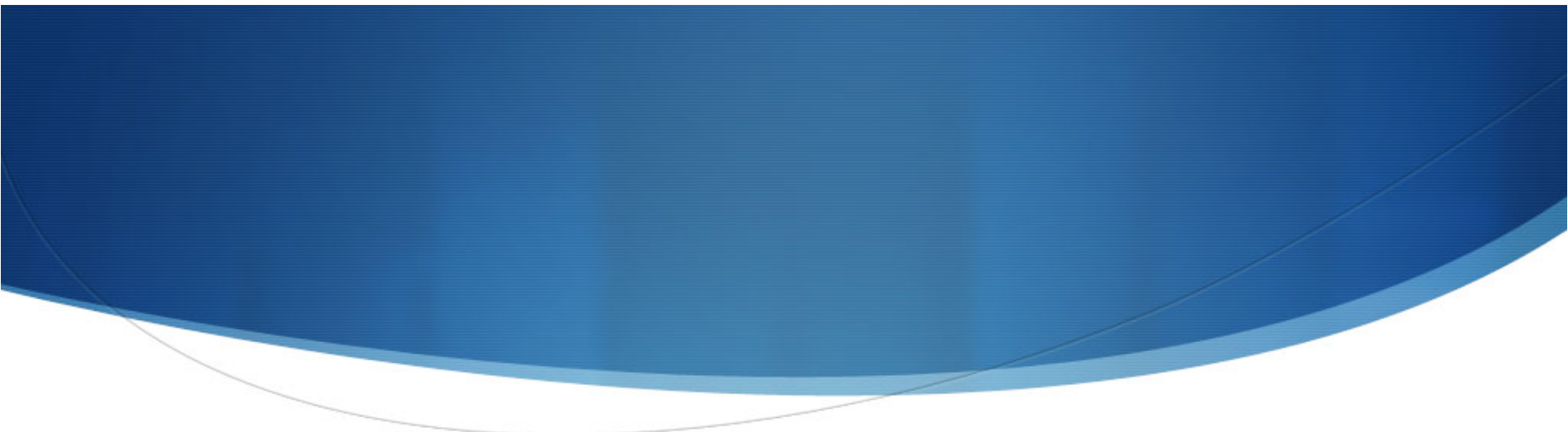








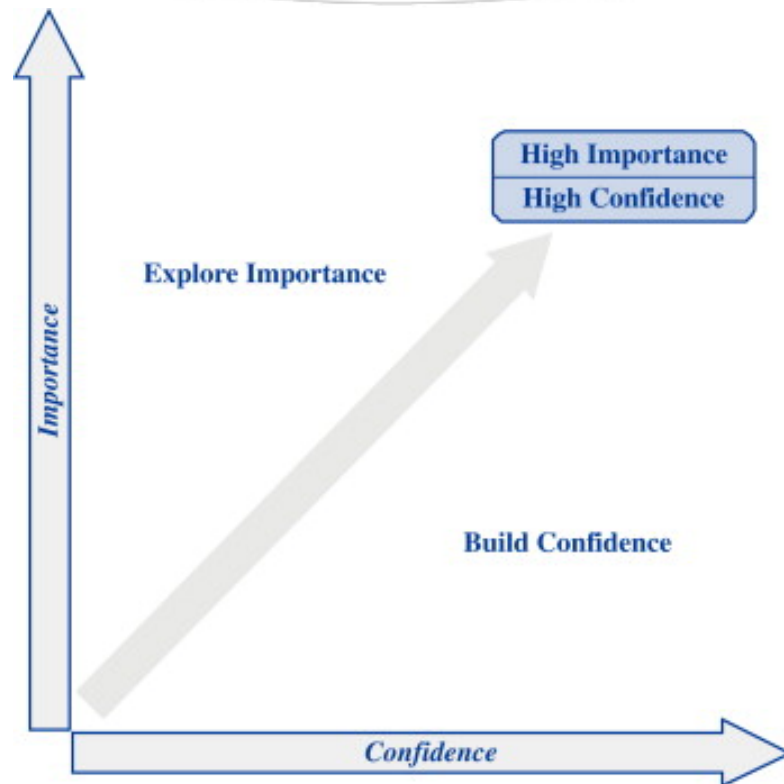
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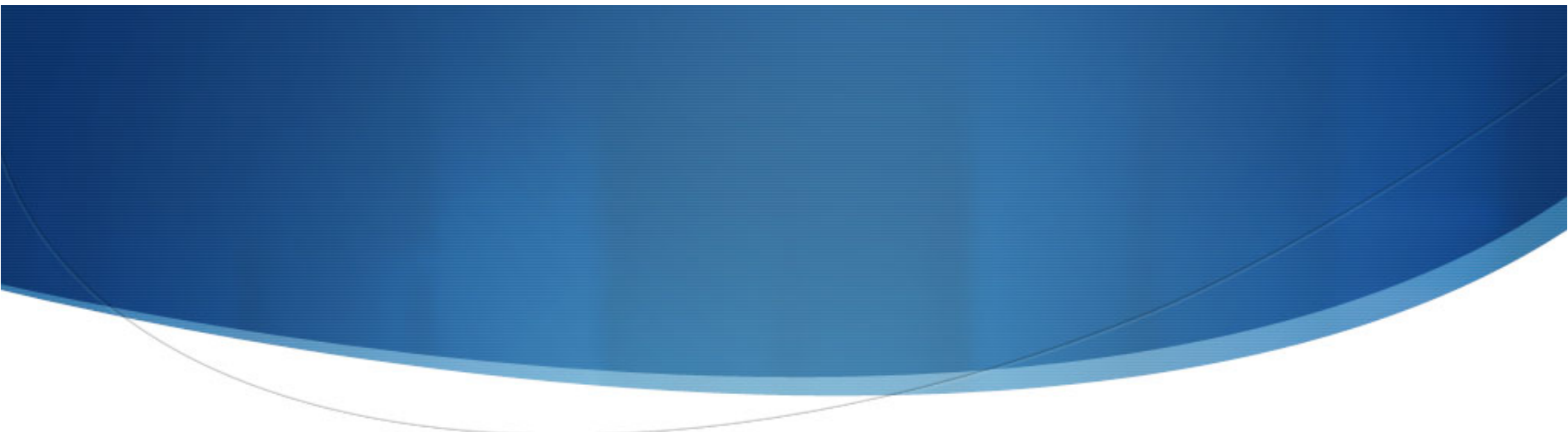
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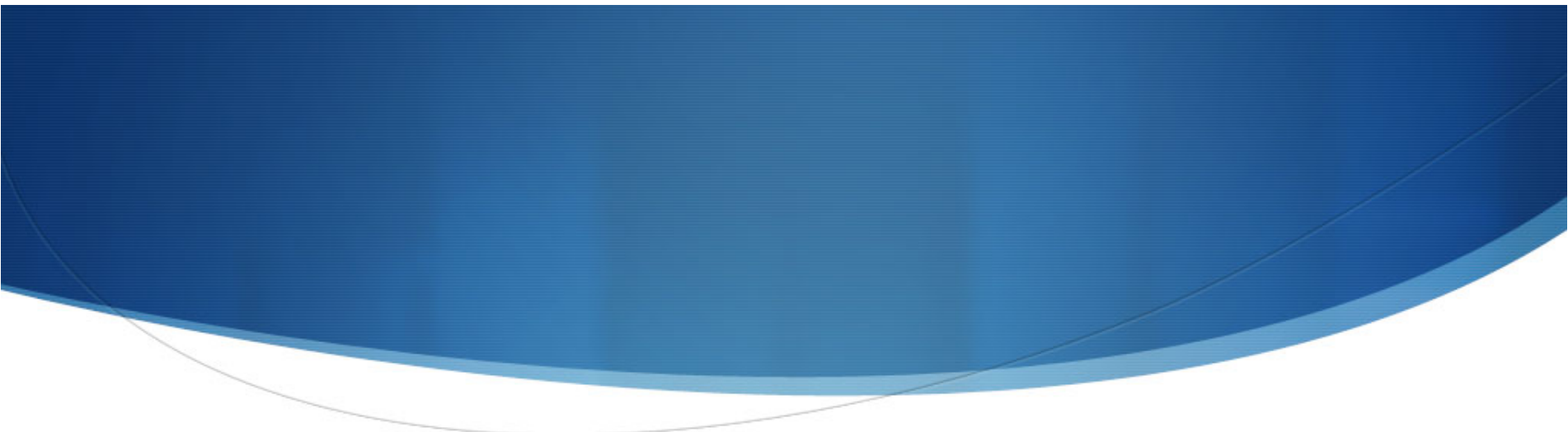
- ◆ Is the patient stimulable for improvement?
- ◆ How would you rate the patient's readiness for change?
- ◆ 4-8 sessions, every 1-2 weeks
  - ◆ Refer (back) to ENT

# Recommendations and plan



Transtheoretical Model of Health Behavior Change Applied to Voice Therapy. Eva van Leer, Edie R. Hapner, and Nadine P. Connor. J Voice, 2008 Nov; 22(6):688-698. Published online 2007 Dec 11.

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# Billing/coding considerations

- ◆ Videostroboscopy: 31579
- ◆ Behavioral & qualitative evaluation of voice and resonance: 92524
- ◆ Laryngeal function studies: 92520
  - ◆ Must include both aero & acoustic measurements
  - ◆ Add -59 modified for “distinct services” if also strobing

CPT1	CPT2	CPT3	Modifier
92524	92520		
92524	92520	31579	-59
92520	31579		-59

# Required reading for nerdy SLPs

- ◆ Transtheoretical Model of Health Behavior Change Applied to Voice Therapy. Eva van Leer, Edie R. Hapner, and Nadine P. Connor. *J Voice*, 2008 Nov; 22(6):688-698. Published online 2007 Dec 11.
- ◆ Voice Training and Therapy With a Semi-Occluded Vocal Tract: Rationale and Scientific Underpinnings. Ingo Titze. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, April 2006, Vol. 49, 448-459.

Questions? Thank you!



**Ochsner**<sup>®</sup>

Voice Center