

# 8 tips for using the CMSF

## Why use the CMSF?

The Colorado Motor Speech Framework (CMSF) is a free online, interactive tool to help make assessment and differential diagnosis of motor speech impairments easier and more accurate.

## Where do I find the CMSF?

[cmsf.info](https://cmsf.info)

## 8 tips for using the CMSF

1. **Use the online version of the tool during assessments.** Be sure to save as a PDF before navigating away. The site does not save or store any information you enter.
2. **If you can't use the online tool** during assessments, you could:
  - a. Download the clickable Excel sheet.
  - b. Print out the PDF version of the CMSF.
3. **Flexible assessment tasks.** Use your own assessment tasks or their suggested tasks. Simply hover over the blue "i" in each "groups" box to see suggested tasks. The tasks are included in the Excel and PDF versions, as well.
4. **Tailor the test for the patient you are assessing.** You don't have to assess every possible characteristic.
5. **Check the "Y/N" box** for every characteristic that you observe.
6. **Hide unchecked rows** when you are done with the assessment. You'll find the button underneath the main table.
7. **Fill out the qualitative data box** near the bottom. The patient's self-rating and your judgment of intelligibility, naturalness, and efficiency provide rich possibilities for person-centered goals and outcome measures.
8. **Use the feature count table** at the bottom of the page to find which motor speech impairment(s) have the most highly distinguishing features. There may be a clear-cut candidate, or there may be evidence for a mixed dysarthria. It is perfectly acceptable to describe our findings without trying to make a concrete determination.

## Learn more about the CMSF

- Watch my YouTube video for a short overview: <https://youtu.be/zegJETdzSHk>
- Listen to an interview with the creator of the CMSF on the Speech Scope podcast (episode 18).
  - On YouTube: <https://youtu.be/KTkMsoMvrMc>.
  - Or find the podcast on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other podcast platforms.