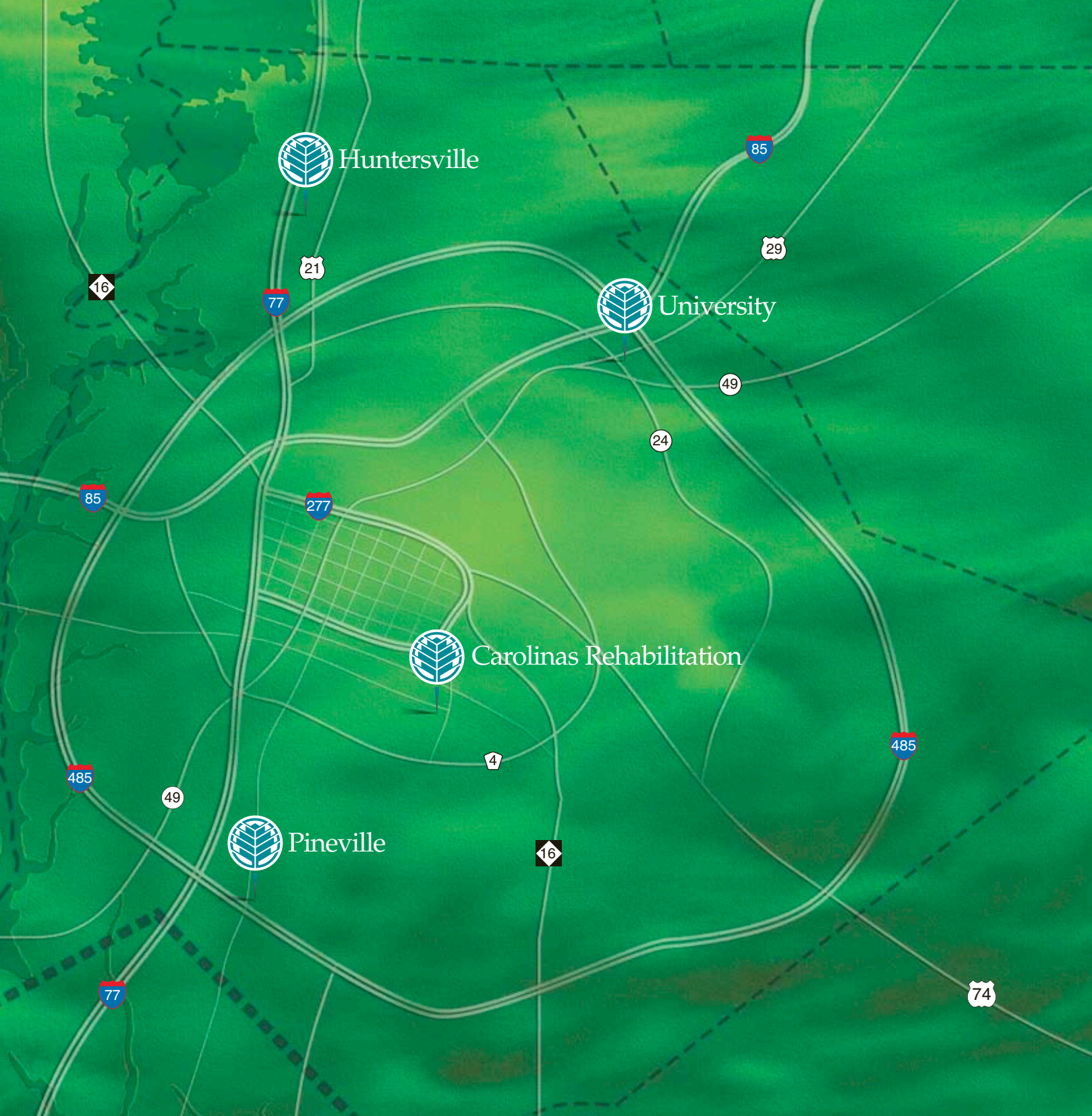




Carolinus Rehabilitation

Speech & Language Pathology



**WITHIN
YOUR
REACH**

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Carolinus Rehabilitation

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Carolinas Rehabilitation Speech & Language Pathology Services

Speech and language pathology services are part of Carolinas Rehabilitation, a nationally recognized healthcare network that provides comprehensive rehabilitative inpatient and outpatient services throughout the region.

Treatment Within Reach

Carolinas Rehabilitation treats a vast array of problems that affect speech production, swallowing, understanding, expressive language and thinking skills. These speech and language rehabilitative services are provided to individuals ranging from infancy through geriatrics.

Each patient is evaluated by a speech and language pathologist, a highly trained healthcare professional who develops a treatment plan to maximize speech and language functioning. All speech and language pathologists possess a master's degree, and Carolinas HealthCare System requires that speech and language pathologists obtain a Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association, as well as have a professional license to practice.

Specialized Services for Children

Speech and language pathologists who work with children have specialized training in feeding problems, alternative or augmentative communication, hearing impairment/cochlear implants and voice disorders. For example, infants and toddlers may receive speech therapy if they have feeding and swallowing problems or need assistance in developing verbal communication. Preschool children may also require extra help to learn basic skills, such as communicating wants and needs. School-age children often go to speech therapy to learn to correct articulation errors and improve language skills.

Specialized Services for Adults

Adults may see a speech and language pathologist if they have an injury to their brain or a disease process that affects communication, swallowing and/or thinking abilities and prevents normal engagement in daily activities. Voice evaluation and treatment are also offered.

Speech and language pathologists are trained to provide testing and therapies for a variety of speech conditions. For example, VitalStim™ Therapy uses small electrical currents to stimulate muscles responsible for swallowing.

Videostroboscopy is a useful and state-of-the-art technique that examines the larynx or voice box. Lee Silverman Voice Therapy is used to treat individuals with Parkinson's Disease and other neurological disorders.

Laryngectomy is a general surgical procedure used to remove a tumor from the larynx. Following a laryngectomy, speech and language pathologists can help restore a patient's ability to communicate. Different evaluations are available for speech enhancement, fluency and accent reduction. For example, SpeechEasy™ is a small, advanced device that is a proven effective treatment option used in speech therapy to help adults and children reduce stuttering and improve fluency.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does it take for speech treatments?

Each individual's case and circumstance is different; therefore, the length of time



in therapy treatment depends upon what the individual needs to gain independence. On the first visit, the therapist discusses which treatments his or her patient needs and how long they should expect to be in therapy. Generally, patients are seen two to three times per week during a three to 12-week period.

What should be expected in speech therapy sessions?

Each patient receives personal care from a speech and language pathologist. Patient

and family members receive consultation time to discuss the goals they hope to achieve during treatment. Patients receiving more than one therapy can expect treatment coordination of care between disciplines. Home exercise programs or activities to reinforce skills will be addressed during treatment sessions, and educational materials are provided to improve the patient's understanding and awareness of problems. In addition, patients are continually encouraged to safely increase involvement in home and community activities.

Speech and language pathology is *within your reach* at convenient locations throughout the region. For more information about speech and language services, call Carolinas Rehabilitation at 704-355-3558 or 1-877-734-2251.

