

PUBLIC HEALTH & PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

GRAND ROUNDS

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Mining the *Communication Matrix* Database for Population-based Information on the Development of Children with Low-Incidence Disabilities

ABSTRACT

A free online version of the *Communication Matrix*, a communication skills assessment tool (Rowland, 1990, 1996 and 2004), is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Korean and Chinese. This instrument is designed for individuals functioning at the earliest stages of communication and for individuals who use *any* form of communication, including pre-symbolic and augmentative or alternative forms. Users enter information about an individual's communication skills as well as diagnosis and functional impairments. Data previously entered on a specific individual may be updated. Parents and professionals may independently complete the assessment and share results. Interactive features make it possible to follow progress and review achievement in depth. No identifying information is collected through the web site. The information that users provide goes into a database that will be mined for scientific information about the development of communication skills in children with specific disabilities.

Food and beverages will be provided.