



The "I" in ICAPs: Examining Treatment Intensity Under the Microscope

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4 **The “I” in ICAPs: Examining Treatment Intensity Under the**
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7 **Microscope**
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The “I” in ICAPs: Examining Treatment Intensity Under the Microscope

Background: Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programs (ICAPs) provide high doses of treatment over short periods. Treatment intensity in post-stroke aphasia rehabilitation and research is not well understood and is typically underspecified, including within ICAPs and modified Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programs (mICAPs), in which intensity is a fundamental design component. One recently developed model of **treatment** conceptualisation, the Multidimensional Dose Articulation Framework (MDAF), may offer a systematic, comprehensive, and granular method of characterising treatment intensity, though this framework has not yet been used to capture elements of intensity during an ICAP or mICAP.

Aims: The purpose of this paper is to examine and describe increasingly specific details of treatment intensity for both an ICAP and mICAP delivered at the University of Montana (UMT).

Methods & Procedures: Fourteen participants with aphasia attended an 84-hour ICAP (n = 8) or a 24-hour mICAP (n = 6) delivered by graduate student clinicians at UMT. Ethics approval was obtained from the UMT IRB (#13-23). We examined intensity and dose using components of the MDAF including broad temporal parameters, and episode-specific length and intensity. Descriptive statistics were used to report group-level, participant-level, and treatment-level parameters.

Outcomes & Results: In this descriptive manuscript, we use a series of vignettes to report temporal parameters from the MDAF including treatment duration, days, sessions, and session density, and episode-level characteristics including episode length and episode intensity. Vignette one examines ICAP and mICAP planned versus actual temporal parameters. Vignette two describes episode-level

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3 detail across two evidence-based treatments administered during the ICAP.

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5 Vignette three details differences in delivery of a single treatment approach
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7 between two participants. In each vignette, we discuss the benefits and challenges
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9 of tracking treatment intensity with fine detail.

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11 Conclusions: Comprehensive specification of dose and intensity parameters is
12
13 essential to compare efficacious treatment programs and to understand variability
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15 in treatment response across individuals with aphasia. The MDAF is a promising
16
17 tool, though detailed treatment intensity remains a challenging construct to
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19 measure, particularly at the level of the episode. Clinical researchers interested in
20
21 dose and intensity and authors of evidence-based therapy approaches must
22
23 continue to work to define and describe active ingredients within therapy
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25 approaches.
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29 Keywords: aphasia, intensive comprehensive aphasia programs, intensity, dose
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32 33 Introduction

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35 Intensity as a treatment variable for aphasia rehabilitation implementation and research
36
37 has gained significant attention in recent years (e.g., Bhogal et al., 2003; Brady et al.,
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39 2016; Marcotte et al., 2018; Pierce et al., 2021; RELEASE, 2021). For behavioural
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41 interventions, such as those used to treat aphasia, ‘intensity’ often refers to the amount
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43 of treatment provided over a given period of time. Accumulating evidence indicates that
44
45 a greater number of treatment hours during the chronic stage of recovery predicts
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47 language improvement (Bhogal, Teasell, & Speechley, 2003; Brady et al., 2016;
48
49 Breitenstein et al., 2017; Johnson et al., 2019). Best practice guidelines from nine
50
51 international healthcare settings (Simmons-Mackie et al., 2017) recommend intensive
52
53 rehabilitation over non-intensive services to maximise experience-dependent
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55 neuroplasticity. Principles of neuroplasticity theorised to influence aphasia recovery
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3 include tenets such as *repetition matters* and *intensity matters* (Kleim & Jones, 2008) or
4 *repetition and intensity promote learning and consolidation* (Kiran & Thompson,
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6 2019). High quality systematic reviews and meta-analyses have underscored the role of
7
8 intensity in aphasia rehabilitation (Brady et al., 2016; RELEASE, 2021), and some
9
10 aphasia treatments are founded on intensive practice (e.g., Constraint-induced Language
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12 Therapy; Pulvermüller et al., 2001). Some service delivery models are foundationally
13
14 designed to maximise intensity by delivering a high dose of treatment over a brief
15
16 intervention duration (Rose et al., 2013). Still, [clinical definitions of what constitutes](#)
17
18 [intensive therapy vary, and despite recent attempts to systematically define terms](#)
19
20 [related to dose and intensity \(e.g., Harvey et al., 2021; Goikoetxea-Sotelo & van Hedel,](#)
21
22 [2023\)](#), concepts and terms used remain murky due to inconsistent definitions and
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24 conflicting findings [in the neurorehabilitation literature base \(Brogan et al., 2021;](#)
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26 [Cavanaugh et al., 2021; Cherney et al., 2012; Harvey et al., 2023; Pierce et al., 2021;](#)
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28 [Shrubsole et al., 2019\)](#).

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36 Intensity and dose are intertwined, multidimensional constructs, which are
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38 typically underspecified in treatment studies (Baker, 2012; Harvey et al., 2023; Harvey
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40 et al., 2021; Yoder et al., 2012; Zeng et al., 2012). [The terms *intensity, dose, and dosage*](#)
41
42 [are sometimes used synonymously and interchangeably, while in other publications](#)
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44 [these terms are differentiated, yet inconsistently defined.](#) In aphasia treatment studies,
45
46 [intensity may refer](#) to the overall schedule (e.g., total hours of treatment over total
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48 number of weeks), the weekly schedule (e.g., hours or sessions per week) (Pierce et al.,
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50 2020; RELEASE, 2021), [or the practice schedule within a session \(e.g., massed vs.](#)
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52 [distributed trials within a session\)](#). *Dose* can be a discrete or continuous variable (Baker,
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54 2012), and sometimes represents the total hours received (RELEASE, 2021), how much
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56 treatment is received and in what schedule (Harvey et al., 2022), the number of episodes
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3 of activity performed in a specified treatment period (Baker, 2012; Page et al., 2012;
4 Warren et al., 2007) or may be represented at the level of a single session (i.e., within-
5 session dose), by using parameters occurring within the session such as frequency of
6 practice or time within a session (Gannotti, 2017). In the absence of consensus
7 definitions, we will use the term *dose* to refer to the amount of treatment provided or
8 received (quantified in time and/or active ingredients for this study), and the term
9 *intensity* to refer to how the dose was delivered over time (i.e., the schedule of delivery
10 for this study).

21 Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programs (ICAP; Rose et al., 2013; Rose et
22 al., 2021) are designed to maximise intensity and infuse principles of neuroplasticity
23 while simultaneously addressing patient goals spanning the International Classification
24 of Functioning, Disability, and Health (Babbitt et al., 2013; Babbitt et al., 2015; WHO,
25 2001), personal recovery (Manning et al., 2019), and the Life Participation Approach to
26 Aphasia (Chapey et al., 2000). ICAPs deliver individualised and highly intensive
27 treatment, while targeting multiple speech, language, cognitive, and psychosocial
28 domains in the context of a cohort of individuals living with aphasia. By definition,
29 ICAPs provide a minimum of 30 hours of treatment delivered at least three hours per
30 day over two weeks (Rose et al., 2013). In the context of ICAPs, the “I” refers to a
31 higher than typical number of treatment hours provided over a small number of weeks.
32 Programs typically include individual sessions, group sessions, technology-based
33 therapy, patient and family education/training, and community outings (Babbitt et al.,
34 2015; Rose et al., 2013). ICAPs have been shown to improve cognitive-linguistic
35 outcomes and functional communication (Babbitt et al., 2015; Griffin-Musick et al.,
36 2020; Griffin-Musick et al., 2021; Hoover & Carney, 2014; Persad et al., 2013;
37 Rodriguez et al., 2013; Winans-Mitrik et al., 2014). Collectively, behavioural and
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3 neuroimaging findings indicate that the ICAP model's foundational components (i.e.,
4 high treatment intensity, comprehensive intervention, cohort-based service delivery)
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6 contribute to improved cognitive-linguistic and functional communication outcomes for
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8 stroke survivors with aphasia (Baliki et al., 2018; Dignam et al., 2015; Griffin-Musick
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10 et al., 2021; Hoover et al., 2017; Leff et al., 2021; Winans-Mitrik et al., 2014).

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14 While evidence supports ICAP efficacy, some studies have documented the
15
16 clinical challenges in implementing and sustaining ICAPs (Monnelly et al., 2023;
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18 Shrubsole et al., 2023). Pragmatic constraints may impact the ability to meet both the
19
20 intensiveness and comprehensiveness parameters defined by the ICAP model.
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22 Specifically, logistics related to funding, staffing, and rigid intensity parameters (i.e., a
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24 minimum of 30 hours of treatment delivered at least three hours per day over two
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26 weeks). Modified ICAPs (mICAPs) have thus emerged as an alternative delivery model
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28 (Rose et al., 2021). A mICAP is defined as a cohort-based programme that meets all but
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30 one ICAP criterion (i.e., there may either be a modification to intensity or a single
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32 component of comprehensiveness; Rose et al., 2021). ICAPs provide a context for
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34 holistic and intensive aphasia treatment (Hoover et al., 2017) and mICAPs may provide
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36 a similarly supportive environment.
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47 ***How intensive are ICAPs and mICAPs?***

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49 Figure 1 shows the total hours versus total number of therapy days reported in
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51 14 ICAPs and seven mICAPs described in a recent international ICAP survey (Rose et
52
53 al., 2021). Of the mICAPs, four were considered “modified” due to alterations in
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55 intensity rather than comprehensiveness, suggesting that this component of ICAPs is a
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57 particularly challenging one to provide across clinical settings. A wide range of
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59 schedules were reported (30-220 hours; 5-44 days) with ICAPs tending to provide more
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3 hours of treatment over fewer days (median 25 hours per week) compared to mICAPs
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5 (15 hours per week).
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10 Figure 1. Total provided hours versus total days for ICAPs and mICAPs as reported in
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12 Rose et al., (2021)
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17 By design, ICAPs provide a range of therapeutic interventions (e.g., impairment-
18 focussed treatments, group psychoeducation) and delivery modalities (e.g., individual,
19 group, and computer-based therapy) (Kincheloe et al., 2022; Rose et al., 2021). The
20 assertion that “each hour of therapy is not equal” (Yoder et al., 2012; Zeng et al., 2012)
21 is of particular importance to clinical researchers striving to understand the relative
22 importance of various interventions and delivery contexts to optimize ICAP outcomes.
23 The content of one treatment hour to the next varies between sessions and participants.
24 Complete specification of therapeutic activities is essential to compare efficacious
25 treatment programs and to understand variability in treatment response across
26 individuals with aphasia (Harvey et al., 2023). A complete understanding of ICAP
27 intensity therefore requires careful examination of the activities performed “within the
28 hour”.
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46 *Peeling back the layers of treatment intensity*

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49 There are a number of ways to examine treatment intensity in complex [service](#)
50 [delivery models](#) such as ICAPs. [For example](#), the Therapeutic Intensity Ratio (TIR;
51 Babbitt et al., 2016) has been used to characterize the intensity of ICAPs and describe
52 treatment schedules by quantifying “weekly intensity” (Rose et al., 2021). The TIR is
53 the percentage of time in a week spent in treatment, assuming a maximum of 40 hours
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3 of intervention per week (e.g., 20 hours in a week equates to a TIR of 50%). The TIR
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5 compares broad temporal parameters but does not provide a mechanism through which
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7 to look more narrowly “within-the-hour” at more complex active ingredients present in
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9 an ICAP.
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12 The Multidimensional Dose Articulation Framework (MDAF; Hayward et al.,
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14 2021) provides a way to conceptualise, measure, and report multiple dimensions of
15
16 treatment intensity and dose. As outlined in Table 1, the MDAF specifies temporal
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18 parameters (i.e., the overall duration of treatment, the number and spacing of treatment
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20 days and sessions), session density (i.e., active versus inactive treatment time within a
21
22 single session) and episode-level characteristics (i.e., episode length, difficulty, and
23
24 intensity). According to the MDAF, episodes contain the *active ingredients* of treatment
25
26 which are considered the base units of complex behavioural aphasia interventions
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28 (Turkstra et al., 2016). The active ingredients are the actions performed by either the
29
30 treatment provider or recipient that are theoretically linked to the underlying
31
32 mechanisms of that treatment (Van Stan et al., 2019). In addition to the concept of
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34 active ingredients specified by the MDAF, the recently developed Rehabilitation
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36 Treatment Specification System (RTSS; Hart et al., 2019) also attempts to explain how
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38 and why a treatment works (Cherney et al., 2022). The RTSS conceptualizes: (1) one
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40 target (i.e., the ability that may change as a result of treatment); (2) ingredients supplied
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42 by the clinician to support or induce the intended change (e.g., cues, activities,
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44 modalities); and (3) the treatment’s hypothesized mechanism of action (i.e., the way in
45
46 which active ingredients elicit change in the target). The RTSS and MDAF models may
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48 have the potential to work together to clearly define (i.e., the RTSS) and quantitatively
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50 measure (i.e., the MDAF) treatment-induced change. To date, the MDAF and the RTSS
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52 have each been applied in a small number of aphasia treatment studies (Cherney et al.,
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2022; Harvey et al., 2022; Harvey et al., 2023), but both have yet to be applied to the ICAP service delivery model. For the purposes of this paper focused on measuring quantitative aspects of treatment intensity, we will focus on the MDAF, though we acknowledge the RTSS and MDAF may serve as complementary frameworks for future studies.

Table 1. MDAF Descriptors

In this paper, we will describe intensity and dose data collected during the delivery of an ICAP and mICAP by graduate student clinicians at the University of Montana (UMT). Putting intensity under the microscope, we provide vignettes that explore dose dimensions, beginning with a broad overview of program dose and intensity (vignette 1), then moving to a detailed examination of dose and intensity across two impairment-focussed treatments (vignette 2), and finishing with an exploration of variability in treatment delivery between two ICAP participants (vignette 3). The focus of this manuscript is to measure and report treatment intensity and dose dimensions within an ICAP and mICAP rather than to analyse the effect of intensity and dose on treatment.

Aims

The purpose of this paper is to explore, examine, and reflect upon ICAP intensity and dose dimensions using the MDAF as a tool to capture increasingly specific details of treatment. Our specific aims are to:

1. Examine and compare dose and intensity at the level of the session, week, and overall duration in an ICAP and mICAP;
2. Compare episode intensity for two evidence-based, impairment-focussed treatment approaches during individual ICAP sessions; and

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3 3. Explore variability in within-episode, within-session, and across-session
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5 intensity and dose for two ICAP participants.
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9 **Materials and Methods**

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12 This manuscript reports on a Phase I pilot study that sought to prospectively
13 investigate two clinical aphasia rehabilitation programs (a 4-week ICAP and a 2-week
14 mICAP) that were carried out from May to July 2023 at UMT (UMT IRB #13-23).
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16 These programs were delivered by graduate student clinicians in speech-language
17 pathology under the direct supervision of trained speech-language pathologists.
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25 ***Participants***

26 *Therapists and Assessors*

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33 **Graduate Student Clinicians.** Sixteen speech-language pathology (SLP)
34 graduate student clinicians (GSCs) were enrolled in the summer 2023 neurological
35 rotation at UMT. All GSCs had completed the first year of a two-year Master of Science
36 graduate program. GSCs underwent a rigorous two-week orientation (75 hours over two
37 weeks) focused on the theoretical rationale and clinical procedures associated with the
38 ICAP and mICAP service delivery models, and were trained to use the MDAF to
39 capture intensity and dose data during individual treatment sessions. Eight GSCs were
40 assigned to each program.
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53 **Graduate Student Researchers.** Two graduate student researchers completing
54 their Master's theses in speech-language pathology administered all pre- and post-
55 treatment assessments for the ICAP and mICAP. Student researchers were extensively
56 trained to administer and score each assessment (35 hours of preparation and training)
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3 during the semester prior to the summer programming and participated in the intensive
4 two-week orientation for graduate student clinicians.
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9 **Undergraduate Research Assistants.** Four undergraduate research assistants
10 (RAs) were hired to assist with data collection. RAs participated in relevant portions of
11 the two-week student orientation and were trained to use the MDAF to track dose
12 during individual treatment sessions throughout the ICAP and mICAP, either through
13 observing treatment sessions or by watching video recordings.
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20 21 22 *Stroke Survivors with Aphasia* 23

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25 People with aphasia were recruited for this prospective, Phase I pilot study from
26 the United States and Canada. Participants were self-referred or referred by a healthcare
27 professional. Recruitment channels included email distribution lists, list serves, social
28 media, and snowball emails that reach aphasia related healthcare professionals or
29 researchers who regularly investigate stroke survivors with aphasia, and regional and
30 national aphasia advocacy groups.
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40 Inclusion criteria included persons with aphasia who were over the age of 18,
41 medically stable, and fluent speakers of English; who demonstrated the presence of
42 aphasia per the *Quick Aphasia Battery* (QAB; Wilson et al., 2018); who were greater
43 than or equal to three months post-onset; and who had corrected to normal hearing and
44 vision. See Table 2 for a summary of participant characteristics using the DESCRIBE
45 reporting standards (Wallace et al., 2023). Fourteen people with aphasia consented to
46 participate in either the ICAP (n = 8) or mICAP (n = 6).
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57 Table 2. Participant Demographic and Stroke Characteristics
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Procedures

Program Design and Delivery

The broad goal of programming at UMT is to provide comprehensive aphasia therapy that is individualised and salient, addresses multiple modalities, and provides clearly defined intensity parameters. We designed the four-week ICAP based on previous clinical programming at UMT, totalling 84 hours of therapy (see Griffin-Musick et al., 2020 and Off et al., 2019 [for additional UMT ICAP information](#)). As part of a larger research protocol, we also designed a novel two-week, 24-hour mICAP to include the same ICAP components and similar ICAP schedule parameters. Appendix A details UMT ICAP and mICAP guidelines for the current protocol using the template for intervention description and replication (TIDieR) checklist (Hoffmann et al., 2014). The ICAP and mICAP included 1:1 sessions (i.e., individual sessions with the participant with aphasia and their student clinician), small group sessions (e.g., conversation group, narrative group, communication partner training group), large group sessions (e.g., aphasia community group), and community engagement activities focused on skill generalisation (e.g., aphasia-friendly art museum tours). Both the ICAP and mICAP included a weekly care partner psychoeducation group, as well as interprofessional programming from physical therapists, occupational therapists, and pharmacists.

To increase consistency while still allowing for individualisation of evidence-supported treatments, GSCs, in consultation with their supervisors and ICAP directors (first and fifth authors), selected from nine evidence-based treatment approaches for aphasia and/or apraxia of speech including: Phonological Components Analysis (Leonard et al., 2008), Semantic Feature Analysis (Boyle, 2010), Phonomotor Therapy

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3 (Kendall et al., 2015), Verb Network Strengthening Treatment (Edmonds et al., 2009),
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5 Response Elaboration Treatment (Kearns, 1985), Combined Aphasia and Apraxia of
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7 Speech Treatment (Wambaugh et al., 2014), Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia
8
9 (Cherney, 2010), Copy and Recall Treatment (Beeson et al., 2003), and Intensive
10
11 Auditory Comprehension Treatment for Severe Aphasia (Knollman-Porter et al., 2018).
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13 GSCs were not limited to a minimum or maximum number of treatment approaches but,
14
15 rather, were instructed to individualise approaches based on participant need. All
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17 treatment stimuli were individualised and made salient for each participant.
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23 ***Screening Procedures***

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26 Once participants with aphasia consented and confirmed enrolment in either the
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28 ICAP or mICAP, the program directors (first and fifth authors) scheduled one-hour
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30 video-conference calls with the participant and their family care partner(s). These initial
31
32 screening meetings included administration of the *Quick Aphasia Battery* (Wilson et al.,
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34 2018), discussion of program details and logistics, and initial discussion of life-
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36 participation focused treatment goals.
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41 ***Pre- and Post- Treatment Assessment***

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45 Participants with aphasia completed a comprehensive assessment battery within
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47 one week of beginning the program, and again within four days of **completing** the
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49 treatment phase of the ICAP or mICAP. See Appendix B for a list of assessments
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51 administered. Future publications will detail outcomes from all assessments
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53 administered across ICAP and mICAP treatment programs.
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Data Collection and Analysis

Attendance and Treatment Fidelity

To track dose and intensity at the level of the session, week, and overall duration (i.e., Aim 1) participant attendance was tracked using paper-based *Treatment Fidelity Logs* (see Appendix C) completed by GSCs each day. Documenting actual attendance (rather than just scheduled treatment hours) was important, as there are known higher levels of attrition in intensive therapy programs (Brady et al., 2016), and because no ICAPs to our knowledge have reported treatment fidelity and attendance in those who do not attrite, but do not receive all treatment hours. To compare episode intensity for impairment-focussed treatments (i.e., Aim 2), GSCs and RAs collected detailed participant data for all 1:1 treatment sessions using the MDAF. Every 1:1 session was video recorded via a Clinical Observation Recording System (CORS, <https://www.ipivs.com>). GSCs completed a *Daily Summary Log* (see Appendix D) each day as well as *Treatment Dosage Logs* for each of the nine evidence-based treatments (see Appendices E and F). RAs completed *Treatment Dosage Logs* for every 1:1 treatment session.

All logs were organised by the first and fifth authors, and manually entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet by the first author. Each log was checked for errors made during manual data entry a minimum of two times by the first author. Calculation of descriptive statistics (i.e., mean, median, range, standard deviation, interquartile range) was completed in Microsoft Excel (Version 16.76).

Results

Through a series of vignettes, we describe and illustrate intensity and dose

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3 dimensions of the ICAP and mICAP through the lens of the Multidimensional Dose
4 Articulation Framework (MDAF). We begin by broadly examining and comparing
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6 overall duration, weekly treatment intensity, session duration, and session density across
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8 ICAP and mICAP programs (vignette 1). We then put intensity under the microscope to
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10 examine episodes within sessions, considering dimensions including episode length and
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12 episode intensity for two evidence-based impairment-focussed treatment approaches
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14 implemented during 1:1 ICAP treatment sessions (vignette 2). Finally, we take a holistic
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16 view to consider multiple dose dimensions across two ICAP participants to explore
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18 variability in dose and intensity that occurs within episodes and sessions, and across the
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20 duration of the treatment program (vignette 3).
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28 Figure 2. UMT ICAP Intensity Representation within the MDAF
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32 ***Vignette 1: Examining Treatment Intensity with the Naked Eye***

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36 *Vignette Aim: Examine and compare intensity at the level of the session, week,*
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38 *and overall duration in an ICAP and mICAP.*
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42 Conceptualising intensity at its broadest level, we wanted to compare and
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44 describe differences in treatment hours using both the MDAF and TIR between the
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46 ICAP and mICAP groups, and to better understand how the planned schedule compared
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48 to the actual number of hours received by each group. Table 3 details differences in
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50 planned versus actual schedule parameters, TIR, and 1:1 session density for the two
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52 programs.
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57 Table 3. ICAP and mICAP Designed versus Delivered Intensity Parameters
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5 The ICAP condition was designed to be delivered five to six hours per day, four
6 days per week, for four weeks (21 hours per week), totalling 84 hours of ICAP
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8 intervention and a Therapeutic Intensity Ratio of 52.5% (TIR; Babbitt et al., 2015). The
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10 mICAP condition was designed to be delivered four hours per day, three days per week,
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12 for two weeks (12 hours per week), totalling 24 hours of mICAP intervention, and a
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14 TIR of 30%. Each ICAP and mICAP 1:1 session had a planned session density (i.e.,
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16 active vs. inactive treatment time) of 1.0 (i.e., 100% of the **actual** individual session
17
18 **time** spent in active treatment), though we anticipated substantial variability. **We**
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20 **calculated session density using the number of minutes spent engaged in active**
21
22 **impairment-focussed therapy compared to the time spent in the room. This also allowed**
23
24 **us to examine sessions that started late or ended early, without the session density**
25
26 **calculation being impacted.** All participants completed their respective program, with
27
28 only a small number of absences due to illnesses during the ICAP. At a group level,
29
30 ICAP and mICAP participants attended a similar proportion of their total treatment
31
32 hours (i.e., ICAP participants averaged 94% of total scheduled hours, mICAP
33
34 participants averaged 90.2% of total scheduled hours). As might be anticipated during
35
36 an intensive program that includes numerous transitions and breaks in a single day, no
37
38 ICAP or mICAP participant attended all scheduled minutes (i.e., 84 hour **dose** for the
39
40 ICAP or 24 hour **dose** for the mICAP) throughout their respective programs.
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49 We also examined the makeup of the 24 1:1 sessions within the ICAP and the
50
51 eight 1:1 sessions within the mICAP. At the group level for 1:1 treatment sessions,
52
53 ICAP and mICAP participants were actively engaged in treatment for similar periods.
54
55 The average session density for **impairment-focused treatment** for ICAP participants
56
57 was 0.79 (i.e., 79% of the 1:1 session was spent in active treatment) and was 0.83 for
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2
3 mICAP participants (i.e., 83% of the 1:1 session was spent in active treatment).
4
5 However, there was considerable variability (ICAP session density range = 0.14 – 1.0;
6
7 mICAP range = 0.15 – 1.0). The remaining time (i.e., average 21% of session for ICAP;
8
9 17% of session for mICAP) was spent either in participation-based therapy (e.g.,
10
11 education about aphasia) or was spent as a break, though we did not further delineate
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13 this for the current study.
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16 17 18 *Vignette 1 Reflection* 19

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21 To our knowledge, this analysis marks the first attempt to capture intended
22
23 versus actual intensity (i.e., schedule of delivery) parameters within an ICAP. At the
24
25 group level across session types, all actual hours delivered in the ICAP and mICAP
26
27 were lower than what was designed. This resulted in a lower TIR (by approximately 3%
28
29 for each group) than what was designed. This measurement was important, as numerous
30
31 ICAPs report total hours or TIR based on the program's design, yet typically do not
32
33 detail how much treatment was actually received by participants. Clear reporting of
34
35 dose and intensity parameters across session types allows for greater understanding of
36
37 treatment provision within the complex ICAP service delivery model.
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43 To calculate session density, we measured the amount of time ICAP and mICAP
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45 participants were actively engaged in 1:1 impairment focussed treatments. Session
46
47 density therefore does not account for time spent on aspects of aphasia management and
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49 treatment beyond the impairment-based approaches (e.g., patient education,
50
51 communication partner education/training). Thus, lower session density could indicate
52
53 that the participant required breaks *or* could indicate that the session focussed on
54
55 communicative participation, communication partner training, psychosocial care, or
56
57 education. Although 1:1 sessions often focussed on impairment-based treatments, these
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3 sessions were also used for complementary and essential comprehensive care that
4
5 systematically addressed all components of the WHO-ICF and LPAA. That is, sessions
6
7 with “low” density (as defined by the amount of impairment-focussed treatment
8
9 delivered) often contained high amount of counselling, education, and communication
10
11 partner training, helping to balance the intensive components of the ICAP with the
12
13 comprehensive care that is necessary to include in not only an ICAP, but also in best-
14
15 practice aphasia management. Though beyond the scope of this paper, future
16
17 manuscripts will detail intensity parameters for these comprehensive elements beyond
18
19 the impairment-focussed treatments currently reported.
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25 One interesting finding that we observed while examining these broader
26
27 temporal parameters of therapy was that numerous 1:1 treatment sessions during the
28
29 ICAP (47.8%) and the mICAP (58.3%) began at least three minutes after the scheduled
30
31 start time (i.e., patient and clinician entered the therapy room and were seated at the
32
33 table). The nature of an ICAP or mICAP includes transitions between large group, small
34
35 group, and individual sessions. However, during 1:1 sessions which were often more
36
37 impairment-focused, there were slow transitions between treatments and between
38
39 sessions. This was not surprising, given our anecdotal experiences with treatment both
40
41 within an ICAP and within a more typical usual care setting. However, should clinicians
42
43 want to maximise time spent in the therapy room with each participant, one solution for
44
45 the future would be to account for these transitions and intentionally schedule a five-
46
47 minute buffer between every session, thus making each ICAP/mICAP treatment day
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49 slightly longer.
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56 **Key takeaways from Vignette 1:**

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- This initial attempt to track (but not control) actual session delivery compared to intended session delivery revealed no program attrition, but did reveal that no ICAP or mICAP participants received all designed hours.
- 1:1 sessions had a lower than anticipated session density, though tracking only impairment-focussed therapy to calculate session density was a substantial limitation of this study.

Vignette 2: Examining Treatment Intensity Under the Microscope

Vignette Aim: Compare intensity within 1:1 ICAP sessions for two evidence-based treatment approaches

In vignette 2, we compare within-session activity for two evidence-based treatment approaches frequently used during the UMT ICAP: Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA) and Verb Network Strengthening Treatment (VNeST). SFA and VNeST are lexical retrieval treatments that are widely used in clinical practice internationally (Dignam et al., 2023). SFA typically targets noun retrieval and is thought to improve lexical retrieval by activating and strengthening semantic networks (Boyle, 2004). VNeST targets retrieval of verbs and associated content words in the context of a structured sentence, and is thought to improve lexical retrieval by promoting systematic access of verbs, their thematic roles, and their patients (Edmonds et al., 2009). Both treatments involve retrieval of a target word and several non-target associated words. During the ICAP, three participants engaged in both VNeST and SFA, two engaged in VNeST only, and two engaged in SFA only.

Though no ICAP studies to date have provided detailed information on within-session dose, some previous treatment research has detailed intensity for a few within-

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2
3 session delivery parameters. For example, Conlon and colleagues reported within-
4
5 session treatment activity for VNeST delivered during a three-week, four hour per day,
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7 five day per week (60 hour) ICAP in the context of a randomised controlled trial
8
9 (Conlon et al., 2020). The authors reported that a total of 15 verbs were targeted during
10
11 the ICAP, with a minimum of three verbs targeted during daily VNeST treatment
12
13 sessions. Neither the length of each 1:1 session (in minutes) nor the duration of active
14
15 treatment for each target verb (in minutes) were reported. As such, it remains unclear
16
17 what happens within and across each 1:1 ICAP/mICAP treatment session. More
18
19 detailed within-session intensity reporting using a tool like the MDAF will allow
20
21 researchers to examine how the active ingredients delivered in an ICAP/mICAP may or
22
23 may not influence participant outcomes.
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28 **What is an episode?** According to the MDAF, treatment sessions contain active
29
30 and inactive episodes. Active episodes (Hayward et al., 2021) occur when the therapy
31
32 recipient is actively involved in a treatment task (e.g., VNeST, communication partner
33
34 training). Inactive episodes occur when time spent within the session is not used for
35
36 treatment (e.g., breaks). For impairment-focussed lexical retrieval treatments such as
37
38 VNeST and SFA, each time a target word is treated constitutes an episode of treatment
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40 (e.g., a trial or cycle of VNeST/SFA). Episodes are defined by their length (e.g., amount
41
42 of time treating a particular target word), difficulty (e.g., how hard the target word is to
43
44 retrieve), and intensity (e.g., how many times the target word is treated within the
45
46 episode). We collected episode-level data [for impairment-focused therapy only](#) during
47
48 every ICAP and mICAP 1:1 treatment session. Of note, in this study, we observed
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50 episodes but intentionally did not attempt to prescribe or manipulate episode length,
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52 difficulty, or intensity as has been done in other studies (e.g., Conlon et al., 2020;
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3 Harvey et al., 2022). We used *Treatment Dosage Data Collection Logs* for all 1:1
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5 treatment sessions to track episode length and intensity.
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9 **Episode length.** Every episode (i.e., each time a new target word was presented)
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11 was denoted with a start and end time, with any breaks during or between targets
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13 recorded. On average, each episode of SFA took 12.28 minutes, and each episode of
14
15 VNeST took 17.54 minutes. See Table 4.
16
17

18 **Episode intensity.** We calculated episode intensity for SFA based on [proposed](#)
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20 active ingredients; that is, therapeutic inputs from the clinician and opportunities for
21
22 production by the participant (Cavanaugh et al., 2022; Evans et al., 2021). Therapeutic
23
24 inputs included: the presentation of a picture (i.e., one salient colour photograph) and
25
26 feature cues provided by the clinician (i.e., six semantic category prompts: group, use,
27
28 action, association, location, and properties). For a single episode of SFA, each
29
30 participant would theoretically have seven therapeutic inputs from the clinician (i.e.,
31
32 one picture presentation and six semantic category prompts), one opportunity to
33
34 produce the target (i.e., name the picture), and six opportunities to produce the
35
36 associated semantic features. We calculated the average number of opportunities to
37
38 produce the target per episode and the average number of opportunities to produce non-
39
40 target associated semantic features per episode. See Appendix F for SFA dosage log.
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48 In most cases, participants received additional chances to produce the target
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50 name and features. For example, persons with aphasia may have been prompted to
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52 produce multiple object properties, or the clinician might have attempted to increase
53
54 activity by asking the participant to name the target multiple times. Conversely, at
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56 times, participants had fewer opportunities to produce associated features. For example,
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58 a clinician might have established that an object's action and use logically overlapped,
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3 and as such, they provided fewer therapeutic inputs and asked the participant to produce
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5 only one combined feature for the target.
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9 On average, ICAP participants received an average of 9.5 (median = 7)
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11 therapeutic inputs per episode, with 1.7 (median = 1) opportunities to produce the target
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13 word, and 7.3 (median = 6) opportunities to produce associated semantic features. In
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15 total, ICAP participants averaged an episode intensity of 18.5 proposed active
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17 ingredients during each episode of SFA. See Table 4 for more details.
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22 For VNeST, the therapeutic inputs we tracked included: (1) presentation of
23
24 target verb, (2) presentation of prompts for three subjects, (3) presentation of three
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26 objects, (4) prompts for response to three wh- questions (i.e., where, when, and why),
27
28 (5) prompts for three SVO/SVO+ productions, (6) presentation of 12 yes/no questions
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30 regarding syntactic plausibility, (7) verb recall (i.e., “what was the verb we just worked
31
32 on?”), and (8) any additional clinician provided cues or redirects (e.g., “ok, let’s
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34 consider someone you don’t know personally. Who is someone who might *verb* for
35
36 their job?”). Theoretically, we determined 26 therapeutic inputs for each episode of
37
38 VNeST. We further measured each participant’s *opportunities for production* within a
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40 single episode for generation of (1) three subjects, (2) three objects, (3) when, where,
41
42 and why responses, and (4) reading of scenarios out loud (SVO/SVO+ production). We
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44 also tracked (5) responses to 12 yes/no syntactic judgement questions, and (6) one
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46 opportunity for verb recall. See Appendix E for VNeST dosage log. According to these
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48 known active ingredients, one episode of VNeST would theoretically have a total of 51
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50 active ingredients; 26 therapeutic inputs from clinician, and 25 patient opportunities for
51
52 production. Ultimately, however, we observed coding inconsistencies across both
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54 graduate student clinicians and undergraduate research assistants (RAs) when
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3 documenting therapeutic input and clinician support. Clinician cues were not always
4 accounted for, and although the coding system in the dosage log included a description
5 and indication to record each clinician prompt, this was infrequently recorded. The data
6 logs we designed did not have a mechanism to account for these inconsistencies, and as
7 such, we do not have a clear picture of how VNeST therapeutic inputs were delivered in
8 the ICAP. We can, however, report our findings for VNeST participant *opportunities*
9 *for production*. Similar to SFA, we found that some episodes contained more
10 opportunities for production because of repetitive practice and additional chances to
11 expand/elaborate. Opportunities for production were also at times lower due to time
12 constraints or skipped treatment components. Overall, participants had an average of
13 26.2 opportunities for production per episode during VNeST. See Table 4.
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28 Table 4. Episode Characteristics for SFA and VNeST
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31 *Vignette 2 Reflection* 32 33

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35 Behavioural aphasia treatments are complex and multifaceted. The fundamental
36 challenge in capturing detailed episode-level data is identifying and delineating the
37 ingredients of treatment in real-time during treatment implementation. In this study,
38 both GSCs and trained RAs collected data in-vivo. Despite careful attempts to design
39 data collection tools to capture relevant episode-level variables, our data logs for
40 VNeST did not consistently and accurately capture clinician therapeutic input due in
41 part to a large and complex array of ingredients.
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51 One rationale to examine episode length and intensity of VNeST and SFA was
52 because of the numerous linguistic components in these approaches. Even though SFA
53 has a relatively simple structure and is straightforward to administer, in-vivo data
54 collection was difficult, and our first attempt at capturing known active ingredients may
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3 not be completely accurate or precise. During VNeST, a more complex treatment
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5 approach, tracking episode intensity by measuring both therapeutic input and participant
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7 opportunities for production is even more challenging. This challenge may also reflect
8
9 that VNeST is a rich, multimodal treatment approach; the multiple elements are
10
11 uniquely complex to the language system. Ultimately, the collection of these data must
12
13 not interfere with treatment delivery. For future research, alternative data collection
14
15 methods including computer- or tablet-based, or automated methods should be
16
17 explored.
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21 Finally, we did not attempt to track episode difficulty because larger questions
22
23 remain about whether *difficulty* should relate to perceived difficulty (i.e., from the
24
25 participant), objective difficulty (e.g., word frequency, syntactic complexity, cognitive
26
27 demands of the task), or something else, such as complexity of the treatment
28
29 environment (Harvey et al., 2023). Exploration of episode difficulty was beyond the
30
31 scope of this study.
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34 35 36 **Key takeaways from Vignette 2:**

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38 • Tracking episode-level detail was complicated, but provided insight to the
39
40 complex active ingredients present in therapy approaches.
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42 • At present, there is not an established mechanism to track episode difficulty,
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44 which limits current feasibility of the MDAF.
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Vignette 3: Magnifying Intensity and Dose Dimensions across Two ICAP

Participants

Vignette Aim: Explore variability in within-episode, within-session, and across-session intensity for two ICAP participants.

To better understand intensity and dose for a single participant across all individual sessions within an ICAP, as well as to understand how episode characteristics may vary for a single treatment approach (i.e., VNeST) for two similar participants, we examined differences of treatment delivery and participant activity within individual sessions. We purposefully selected two ICAP participants (represented here using pseudonyms “Jody” and “Stella”) matched for age, gender, aphasia severity, and time-post onset, but who had varying personal factors including care partner support, fatigue, and psychological well-being. Previous ICAP literature has explored the role of these variables in understanding ICAP responders and non-responders (Babbitt et al., 2016). We were curious about how varying personal factors might impact treatment delivery as well as overall response to treatment.

ICAP Participant “Jody”

Jody was a 42-year-old, right-handed, bilingual (English and Patois) female who had experienced a left-hemispheric stroke 13 months prior to recruitment. She held an associate’s degree, was single, and had been working full-time and living with family members prior to her stroke. Following her stroke, Jody alternated between living with her parents and her sister, who was her primary care partner and who had taken 11 months off of work prior to the ICAP to help care for her sister and aid in her recovery. Jody’s sister accompanied her to each day of the ICAP and actively engaged in care

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3 partner training and education during the program.
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6 During pre-treatment assessment, Jody presented with mild anomic aphasia
7 (WAB-R AQ 81.8) and did not report decreased mood or increased stress. She indicated
8 that her quality of life and familial support remained high, despite experiencing
9 aphasia. During the four weeks of the ICAP, Jody attended a total of 83 hours, 8
10 minutes out of a possible 84 hours of treatment. She attended every 1:1 session,
11 engaging in VNeST, SFA, ORLA, PCA, and RET. Jody's average 1:1 session length
12 was 54.5 minutes (range 44-63 minutes), and she was actively engaged in **impairment-**
13 **focussed** therapy tasks about 80% of the time (mean session density 0.79, range 0.3-
14 1.0).
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28 *ICAP Participant "Stella"* 29

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32 Stella was a 44-year-old, right-handed, monolingual (English) female who had
33 experienced a left-hemispheric stroke 12 months prior to recruitment. She held a
34 doctoral degree, was single, and had been working full-time and living independently
35 prior to her stroke. Following her stroke, she lived with a friend. Stella attended the
36 ICAP independently, navigating the local paratransit bus system to attend each day of
37 programming. During pre-treatment assessment, Stella presented with mild anomic
38 aphasia (WAB-R AQ 85.4), and reported experiencing significant stress, decreased
39 mood, and low quality of life. She expressed that a number of stressors were impacting
40 her life, including lack of cohesive rehabilitative care, family members who lived far
41 away, and financial concerns.
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55 Throughout ICAP sessions, Stella demonstrated considerable fatigue, and
56 required frequent breaks within and between therapy tasks. She often became visibly
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3 upset raising concerns about stroke-related changes in her life, including loss of
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5 employment following her stroke, and about an upcoming shift in her living situation.
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7 Her fatigue was substantial enough that the interprofessional pharmacy team associated
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9 with the ICAP was consulted regarding possible medication side effects. Upon a
10
11 thorough medication review, several contraindicated medications that may have been
12
13 exacerbating fatigue were identified and discussed with Stella's primary care provider.
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18 During the four weeks of the ICAP, Stella attended a total of 79 hours and 48
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20 minutes out of a possible 84 hours. She attended every 1:1 session, engaging in the
21
22 following treatment approaches: VNeST, PMT, and ORLA. Stella's average 1:1 session
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24 length was 55.1 minutes (range 50-60 minutes), and was actively undertaking
25
26 *impairment-focused* therapy activities 65% of the time (mean session density 0.65,
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28 range 0.08 - 0.92).
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33 *Example of Single Session Data Obtained*

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37 The following temporal information exemplifies the structure and data tracking
38
39 for a single *impairment-focused* 1:1 treatment session for one participant. Jody's twelfth
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41 session (i.e., afternoon session during day eight of the ICAP) was scheduled for 60
42
43 minutes from 2:30 – 3:30pm. The session began at 2:35pm and ended at 3:29pm (i.e.,
44
45 54 minutes). Jody was actively engaged in *impairment-focused* therapy for 42 of 54
46
47 minutes, with a session density of 0.77. During this session, she completed SFA for 25
48
49 minutes and VNeST for 17 minutes. She took one two-minute break, and the clinician
50
51 took approximately two minutes to transition between therapy tasks. She also spent
52
53 eight minutes discussing her personal goals for the next small group ICAP session with
54
55 the clinician (not accounted for in our current narrow view of session density, but
56
57 nonetheless important to the session). During 25 minutes of SFA, Jody completed three
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3 episodes (i.e., three picture targets and webs), with 21 therapeutic inputs, 3
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5 opportunities to produce the target word and 17 opportunities to produce associated
6
7 semantic features. During 17 minutes of VNeST, she completed one VNeST episode
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9 (i.e., one target verb), with 30 opportunities for production.
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13 14 *Example of Episode-Level Data Obtained for a Single Treatment Approach*

15 16 *Across Two Patients*

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18
19 In addition to examining differences in how programmatic design was carried
20
21 out, we were also interested in delving into the episode-level characteristics of the
22
23 MDAF in more detail for each participant. One example involving the VNeST treatment
24
25 approach is described here.
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29
30 Both Jody and Stella completed VNeST during the ICAP. Jody completed
31
32 VNeST during 12/24 1:1 treatment sessions, totaling 266 minutes of active VNeST
33
34 treatment. Her average independent accuracy (i.e., accuracy during production of three
35
36 subjects, three objects, 3 SVO sentences, response to where/when/why questions, 12
37
38 syntactic judgement tasks, and one recall of the target verb) during VNeST was 77.9%
39
40 (range = 53.3 - 96.7%, SD = 13.3%). Stella also completed VNeST during 12/24 1:1
41
42 treatment sessions, totaling 245 minutes of active VNeST treatment. Her average
43
44 independent accuracy (i.e., accuracy during production of three subjects, three objects, 3
45
46 SVO sentences, response to where/when/why questions, 12 syntactic judgement tasks,
47
48 and one recall of the target verb) during VNeST was 93.5% (range = 83.5 - 100%, SD =
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50 0.04%). Episode length and intensity for Jody and Stella during VNeST are displayed in
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55 Table 5.
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Table 5. Differences in episode delivery between two participants

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5 Overall, Jody and Stella spent a similar amount of time engaging in VNeST (266
6 minutes and 245 minutes, respectively), with similar mean episode intensities (Jody:
7 24.6 production opportunities; Stella: 25.1 opportunities). However, episode length
8 differed substantially between participants, on average (Jody: 19.3 minutes; Stella 7.9
9 minutes). Interestingly, despite significant personal factors related to fatigue and
10 motivation for Stella, she typically engaged in more episodes per session and completed
11 each episode more quickly than Jody. Jody's episode intensity was more variable (range
12 15 – 30 opportunities) than Stella's (range 24 – 26 opportunities). That is, despite
13 similar overall time spent on VNeST treatment, Jody and Stella had a vastly different
14 number of total opportunities for production. Across 266 minutes during 12 1:1
15 sessions, Jody had 336 total opportunities for production. Across 245 minutes during 12
16 1:1 treatment sessions, Stella had 780 total opportunities for production.

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34 Noting these differences, the first author reviewed video recordings of three
35 ICAP 1:1 treatment sessions at various points of the program for Jody and Stella that
36 included VNeST. Observationally, it was noted that both clinicians administered
37 VNeST treatment at a similar rate, but three differences were noted: (1) Jody required
38 more time to elicit each response than Stella (i.e., due to more pronounced word-finding
39 difficulties); (2) Jody required more redirects and task explanation each time VNeST
40 was administered; and (3) Jody's clinician engaged in slightly more undirected side
41 conversation than Stella's clinician. These three factors appear to explain the difference
42 in episode length between participants. It is not clear the extent to which differing skill
43 sets and facilitation styles between student clinicians was a factor.
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Vignette 3 Reflection

Granular characterisation of individual performance during a single treatment approach (i.e., VNeST) was helpful in the larger context of patient-specific variables, demographic details, and temporal parameters. We felt it was important to understand how episode intensity and episode length might be impacted by a number of larger factors.

We found it interesting that Stella demonstrated more fatigue and had less overall active treatment time than Jody over the course of the entire ICAP (by approximately 200 minutes), but typically had a higher sum of episodes (i.e., number of episodes administered within a single session) during VNeST than Jody. We anticipated that Stella's intensity for VNeST would have been lower than Jody's, given personal factors related to fatigue and motivation, and her overall lower active treatment time. We were further surprised that Stella had substantially higher VNeST episode intensity leading to nearly three times as many total opportunities as Jody during this treatment.

One possible reason that the within-VNeST episode intensity was higher for Stella may have been because the task was more challenging for Jody than it was for Stella. As such, session activity was likely impacted as a function of "difficulty", which although designed as part of the MDAF, we did not explore. Ultimately, we believe this exemplifies why it is important to consider all pieces of intensity using a framework like the MDAF. As future research continues to examine intensity and active ingredients in more detail, we cannot only examine time spent in the session or time spent implementing the treatment, but need to also carefully examine episode difficulty within each session. On the surface, both participants received similar treatment time for VNeST, but upon more granular and microscopic examination, we observed that one participant received a substantially greater dose; far more opportunities for production

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3 and likely more active ingredients. Thus, it is essential that as future research continues
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5 to examine intensity and active ingredients in more detail, we cannot only examine time
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7 spent in the session or time spent implementing the treatment as a mechanism of
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9 intensity, but must also carefully look within a session or within a single treatment to
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11 fully comprehend what may be occurring to stimulate change.
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15 **Key takeaway from Vignette 3:**

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17 • Individual participants show vast differences in the number of active ingredients
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19 performed/received (i.e., episode-level differences) in therapy, even when
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21 spending approximately the same amount of time performing a treatment.
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29 **Discussion**

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32 The ICAP and mICAP service delivery models have the potential to provide a
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34 viable and effective method of intervention in an intensive manner (Boyer, 2020),
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36 though implementation details regarding dose and intensity of these types of programs
37
38 are not well understood. This study marks the first attempt to characterise ICAP
39
40 intensity from the macro down to the micro level using the MDAF. Previous ICAP
41
42 research has documented total treatment duration, number and spacing of days, number
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44 and distribution of sessions, Therapeutic Intensity Ratio, and, in some cases, timed
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46 duration of sessions (e.g., Babbitt et al., 2015; Griffin-Musick et al., 2020; Off et al.,
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48 2019; Nicholas et al., 2021). Within-session activity, such as the proportion of time
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50 spent actively engaged in therapy tasks (i.e., session density), and episode length,
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52 difficulty, and intensity have not been systematically documented or investigated. The
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54 current study captured actual versus intended total treatment dose, and allowed for
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56 better understanding of detailed *within-the-hour* 1:1 session parameters, including
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temporal and episode characteristics for impairment-focussed treatments.

Having a better understanding of what happens within treatment sessions may allow clinical researchers to examine individual variability in treatment response and, ultimately *in the future*, help clinicians optimise treatment for individuals living with aphasia. As clinicians, we should ideally individualise intensity with the goal of optimising treatment-related aphasia recovery. *However, our ability to understand how individual factors influence dose-response relationships is not yet understood.*

Unlike factors such as age, stroke size and location, and time post-onset, which are irreversibly established before a person attends aphasia rehabilitation, treatment-related factors are modifiable (Varkanitsa & Kiran, 2022), especially within treatment sessions (e.g., time spent active within a session, number of opportunities to produce targets). We illustrated how two participants who were closely matched on several variables (i.e., age, *time post-onset*, biological sex, aphasia severity) demonstrated variability in episode intensity – the number of opportunities to practice producing targets. These differences appear to be due to personal factors including fatigue, mood, motivation, and differences in language strengths and needs. Clearly, person-level variables will ultimately impact treatment delivery in an ICAP or mICAP, both in terms of ability to participate in a more intensive program as well as the capacity to deliver high intensity episodes (Babbitt et al., 2016). *If and how this variability influences aphasia recovery remains to be seen.* Individual treatment in ICAPs and mICAPs typically incorporates salience into treatment, making sessions highly individualised and holistic (Monnelly et al., 2023; Rose et al., 2021). It is possible that evidence-based treatments carefully tailored to suit personal characteristics and circumstances on a case-by-case basis may elicit a dramatic improvement in individual outcomes and reduce variability in recovery profiles between people with aphasia. *Though the recent*

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3 RELEASE data (2021) provides helpful information related to weekly hours of therapy
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5 for treatment domains, there is not yet further detail established for more specific
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7 episode-level parameters.
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10 11 ***Limitations and Clinical Implications*** 12 13

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15 ICAP reporting to date has typically underspecified intensity parameters.
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17 Though some temporal characteristics have been reported from programs (e.g., total
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19 duration, TIR), limited description of what ICAPs often look like within a week, a day,
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21 and a single session reduces the ability for clinical researchers to have a complete
22
23 understanding of the numerous components that make up these comprehensive
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25 programs.
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29 Within a single session, understanding episode intensity hinges on identifying
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31 and delineating the active ingredients of complex treatments for both impairment-
32
33 focussed and comprehensive approaches. There is currently no consensus on what
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35 constitutes an active ingredient of aphasia treatment, although researchers have begun to
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37 shed light on this issue (e.g., Cherney et al., 2022; Gravier et al., 2018; Quique et al.,
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39 2019; Evans et al., 2021). Part of this challenge stems from the fact that the treatment
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41 approach evidence base often underspecifies details about active ingredients and how to
42
43 document those active ingredients during clinical delivery. Which ingredients are
44
45 important and need to be documented is currently left to the clinician and/or researcher
46
47 to determine. Using shared terminology provided by models like the Rehabilitation
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49 Treatment Specification System (RTSS) to explore practical and theoretical treatment
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51 constructs may provide a useful framework for understanding the essential components,
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53 active ingredients, and underlying mechanisms of action for various treatments
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55 (Cherney et al., 2022).
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3 Secondly, our method for collecting treatment activity data within sessions was
4 rudimentary and labour-intensive. Despite careful planning and design of the program
5 (e.g., RAs, intensive training for GSCs, session video-recording), we found it
6 challenging to record active ingredients in vivo. Future work should look to leverage
7 existing technologies to support data collection. Our goal was to investigate the process
8 of an a priori application of the MDAF to the ICAP service delivery model. We chose to
9 focus only on impairment-focussed treatments for the current study, which was a
10 significant limitation and restricted our ability to report many other holistic factors
11 essentially included in treatment. However, this focus on impairment-focussed therapy
12 for 1:1 sessions did allow for greater ease of measurement of episode characteristics,
13 though episode-level detail was still challenging to capture.

30 ***Future Directions***

31
32 We have shown that individuals with similar demographic and aphasia profiles
33 may receive markedly different amounts of impairment-focussed practice within an
34 ICAP. Understanding the factors contributing to this variability, and the impact of this
35 variability on treatment response, is essential to delivering high-quality aphasia
36 rehabilitation services. Future investigations into treatment intensity, particularly within
37 the context of an ICAP or mICAP, will need to investigate aphasia interventions beyond
38 1:1 impairment-based therapy, such as group-based treatments, and patient education
39 and communication partner training. Within 1:1 sessions, it is recommended that future
40 investigators document session dose beyond impairment-focussed treatment. Clinical
41 researchers should document the amount of time spent in active impairment-focussed
42 therapy, time spent in activity and participation-focussed therapy, and time spent not
43 active (e.g., breaks). In the absence of established active ingredients for each therapy
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3 approach, perhaps session dose may be best understood currently by documenting the
4 ratio of time spent within session focused on language construct(s) (e.g., speaking and
5 writing) and treatment modalities, rather than exploring single episodes of each
6 treatment in depth. We attempted to put intensity under the microscope in this study, but
7 this was challenging due to the lack of known active ingredients established for each
8 treatment approach used during an ICAP. Though it is important to begin to understand
9 dose parameters with greater detail than what has been reported to date, perhaps it is
10 more practical for clinicians to begin to examine intensity at a less detailed level than
11 under the *microscope* but instead under a *magnifying glass*, by documenting the ratio of
12 different constructs (e.g., impairment-focussed therapy versus participation-level
13 treatment versus psychoeducation) provided in therapy. This within-session information
14 can provide a more holistic understanding of each session's dose and structure.

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17 Application of a framework such as the MDAF relies on a priori specification of
18 active ingredients of a treatment approach and clear procedures for documentation and
19 data collection. These will need to be developed for each therapy approach. At present,
20 it is not clear which intensity variables matter most. Ideally, development of novel
21 treatment approaches used within ICAPs or other service delivery models will include
22 early phase studies to find the “optimal dose” (Harvey et al., 2022) of these treatments
23 before scaling up to larger efficacy and effectiveness studies.

24 25 26 **Conclusions**

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29 The purpose of this study was to track intensity dimensions in increasingly
30 specific levels of detail during an ICAP and mICAP. We captured temporal level
31 parameters for each program, and more detailed episode characteristics for 1:1
32 impairment-focussed sessions within an ICAP. This was time and resource intensive.

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3 Although clinicians can continue to work to increase provision of and reporting details
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5 for high-intensity **impairment-focussed** treatment, it is important to caution that more is
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7 not necessarily better (Pierce et al., 2020; Cherney et al., 2012), and treatment must
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9 remain holistic, incorporating elements of the ICF and LPAA models. However,
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11 clinicians can work to be more prescriptive. Indeed, we believe that it is essential to
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13 remember that although each hour of a treatment day in the context of an ICAP or
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15 mICAP will vary substantially, each hour nevertheless matters. **To fully understand the**
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17 **influence of dose and intensity on response to treatment, additional research is needed**
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19 **to systematically manipulate broad and narrow treatment intensity parameters and then**
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21 **compare those parameters to a variety of patient outcomes.**
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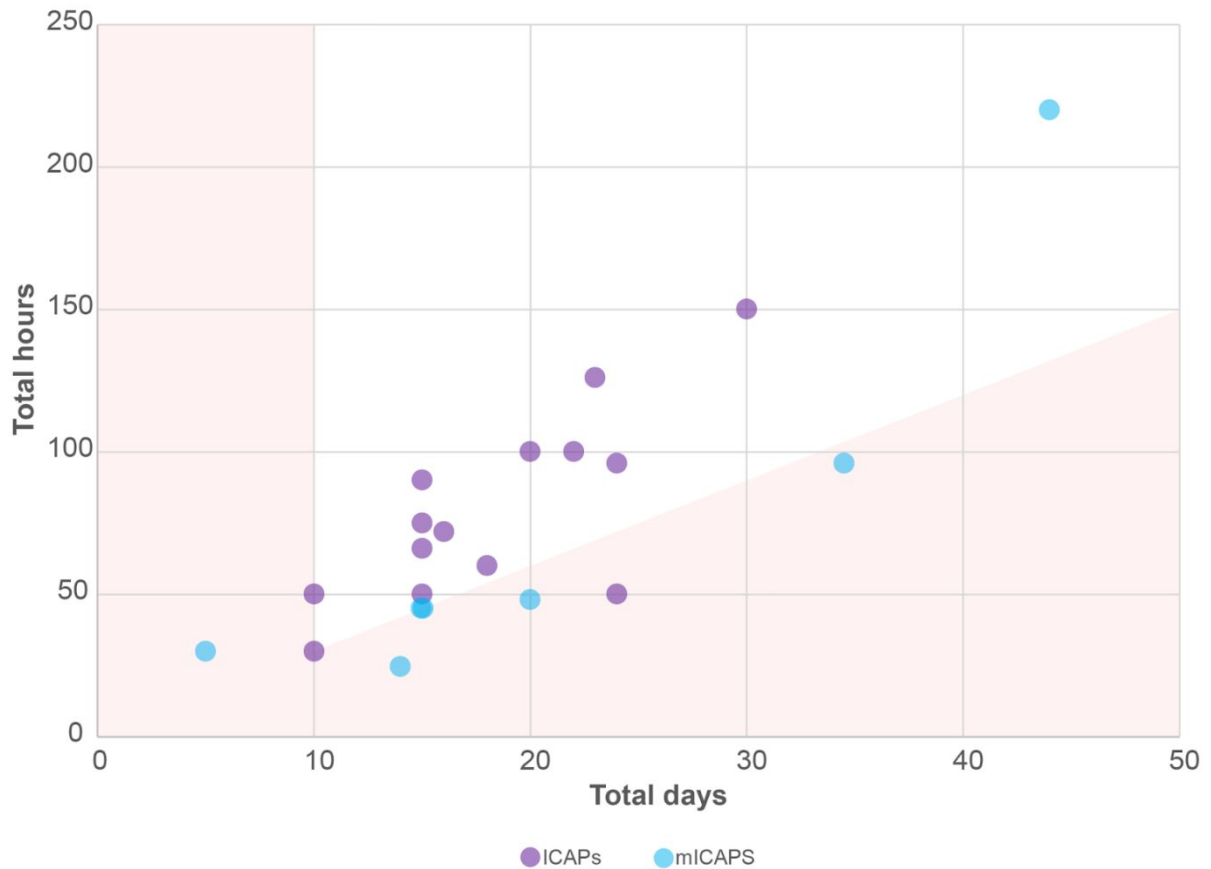
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Figure 1. Total provided hours versus total days in previously surveyed ICAPs and mICAPs (Rose et al., 2021)



Note: Shaded red area indicates schedules and doses not meeting ICAP minimum criteria; either fewer than 30 hours total (vertical axis), fewer than two weeks (horizontal axis), or mean daily provision of less than three hours per day (diagonal).

Figure 2. UMT ICAP Intensity Representation within the MDAF

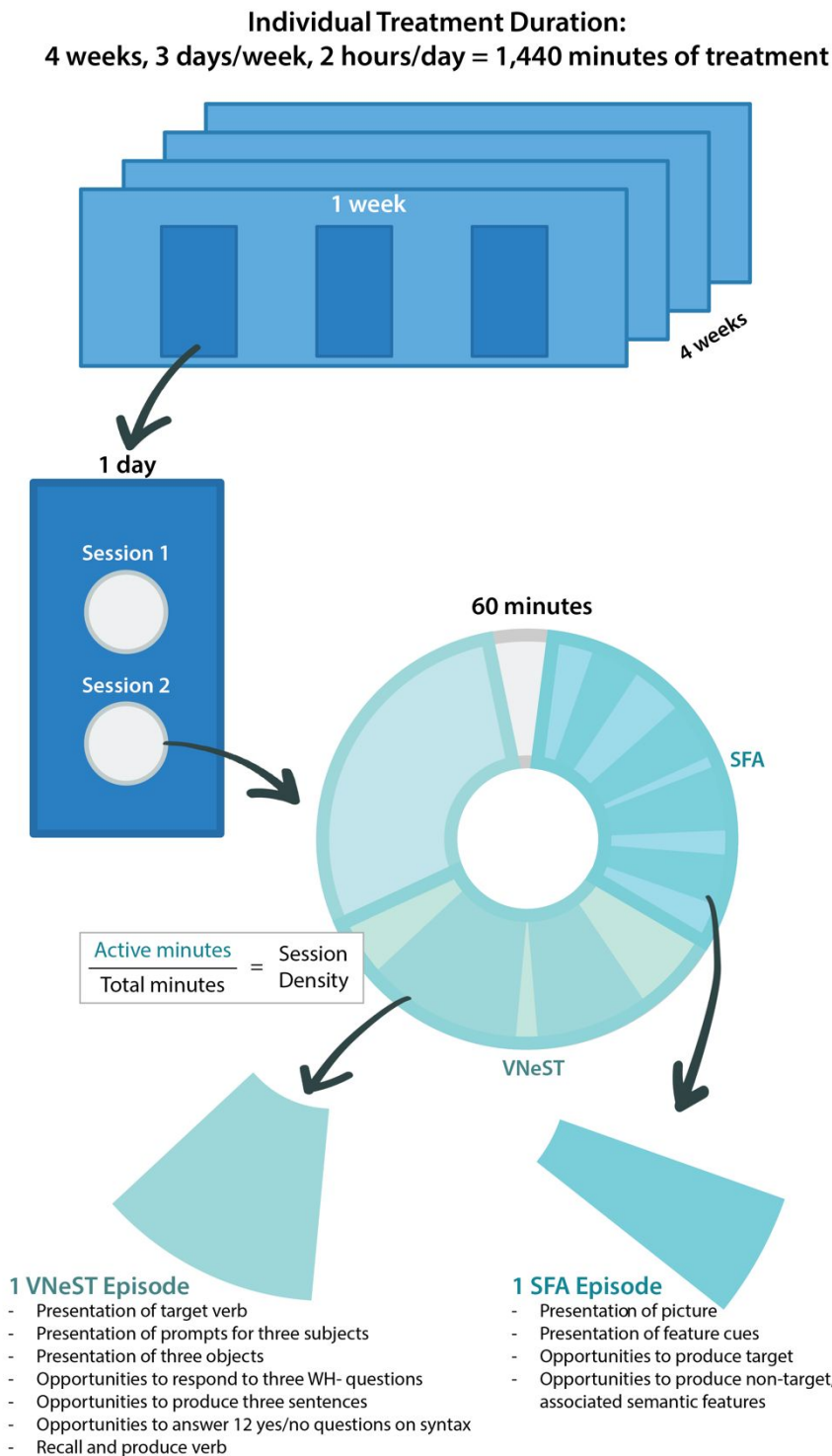


Table 1. **Dose, Intensity, and** MDAF (Hayward et al., 2021) Descriptors (adapted from Harvey et al., 2023)

	Term	Description
	Dose*	<i>Amount of treatment provided or received (i.e., time or active ingredients)</i>
	Intensity*	<i>How dose is delivered over time (i.e., schedule of delivery)</i>
Temporal Parameters	Total duration	Overall length of intervention
	Days (number and spacing)	Number and distribution of days of intervention
	Sessions (number and spacing)	Number and distribution of sessions
	Session length	Timed duration of session(s)
	Session density	Proportion of time actively engaged in therapy compared to inactive
	Episode	Basic unit of treatment which contains the <i>active ingredients</i> of a treatment
Episode-Level Characteristics	Episode length	How long task is performed for (in units of time)
	Episode difficulty	How hard the task is to perform
	Episode intensity	How much of the task is performed per episode

Note. MDAF Multidimensional dose articulation framework

*Term not defined explicitly by the MDAF, but used in this study and thus operationally defined in this paper

Table 2. Participant Demographic and Stroke Characteristics

Program Type	Participant Code	Age	Years of Education	Biological Sex	Primary Language and Language of treatment/testing	Languages Used	History of condition(s) known to impact communication/cognition	History of Previous Stroke	Lesion Hemisphere	Time Since Onset of Aphasia	Conditions Arising from Neurological Event	Pre-Treatment WAB-R AQ Score, Aphasia Severity & Subtype per WAB-R
ICAP	ICAP-PWA001	53	16	F	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	9/2021; 21 months	Aphasia, Apraxia of speech, oral apraxia, right hemiparesis, right visual field cut	42/100; Severe Broca's
ICAP	ICAP-PWA002	83	14	F	English	English	n/a	n/a	Unknown; no official stroke diagnosis	Unknown	Aphasia, dysphonia, dysarthria	64.4/100; Moderate Conduction
ICAP	ICAP-PWA003	42	14	F	English	English, Patois	n/a	n/a	Left	4/2022; 13 months	Aphasia, right hemiplegia, attention processing	81.8/100; Mild Anomic
ICAP	ICAP-PWA004	52	13	M	English	English, Spanish	n/a	n/a	Left	1/2021; 28 months	Aphasia, right hemiparesis, apraxia of speech	47.6/100; Severe Broca's
ICAP	ICAP-PWA005	44	21	F	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	6/2022; 12 months	Aphasia, right hemiparesis	85.4/100; Mild Anomic
ICAP	ICAP-PWA006	43	12	M	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	1/23/2022; 1/25/2023; 2/2022; 15 months	Aphasia, apraxia of speech, oral apraxia, right hemiparesis,	16.8/100; Profound Global

												seizures, right visual field cut	
1													
2	ICAP	ICAP- PWA007	47	18	F	English; Hindi	English, Hindi	n/a	n/a	Left	8/2019; 45 months	Aphasia	82/100; Mild Anomic
3													
4													
5	ICAP	ICAP- PWA008	62	16	M	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	3/2023; 3 months	Aphasia	42.4/100; Severe Wernicke's
6													
7													
8	mICAP	mICAP- PWA001	77	14	M	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	10/2021; 19 months	Aphasia, apraxia of speech, oral apraxia	25.7/100; Severe Broca's
9													
10													
11													
12	mICAP	mICAP- PWA002	63	16	M	English	English, French	n/a	n/a	Left	8/2017; 72 months	Aphasia	85.4/100; Mild Anomic
13													
14	mICAP	mICAP- PWA003	26	16	M	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	3/2022; 16 months	Aphasia	98.0/100; Not Aphasic per WAB- R criteria
15													
16													
17													
18	mICAP	mICAP- PWA004	69	16	F	English	English	n/a	AVM in 2001	Left	8/2019; 47 months	Aphasia, oral apraxia, right hemiplegia	55.0/100; Moderate Broca's
19													
20													
21													
22	mICAP	mICAP- PWA005	69	13	M	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	9/2021; 22 months	Aphasia, right hemiparesis	71.4/100; Moderate Anomic
23													
24													
25													
26	mICAP	mICAP- PWA006	60	16	F	English	English	n/a	n/a	Left	11/2021; 20 months	Aphasia, right visual field cut	66.5/100; Moderate Conduction
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28													
29													
30													

31 *Note:* Participant characteristics followed DESCRIBE reporting standards (Wallace et al., 2023) in addition to initial *Western Aphasia Battery-Revised* aphasia quotient,
32 severity, and subtype.
33

Table 3. ICAP and mICAP Designed versus Delivered Intensity Parameters

	ICAP		mICAP	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Duration	4 weeks		2 weeks	
Days	16 days 4 days per week		6 days 3 days per week	
Sessions	84 sessions 5-6 sessions per day		24 sessions 4-5 sessions per day	
Session length (1:1 sessions)	60 mins	Mean = 56.0 mins; SD = 4.9 mins	60 mins (3 per week) 45 mins (1 per week)	Mean = 51.8 mins; SD = 6.7 mins (60 mins sessions) Mean = 39.2 mins; SD = 7.9 mins (45 mins sessions)
Total hours	84 hours	Mean = 79.0 hours SD = 5.5 hours	24 hours	Mean = 21.7 hours SD = 0.56 hours
1:1 sessions	24 hours	Mean = 22.8 hours SD = 1.7 hours	7.5 hours	Mean = 6.5 hours SD = 0.6 hours
Small group sessions	27 hours	Mean = 25.6 hours SD = 2.1 hours	7.5 hours	Mean = 6.9 hours SD = 0.3 hours
Large group sessions	17 hours, included once weekly hosted lunch	Mean = 16.3 hours SD = 0.8 hours	5 hours	Mean = 4.5 hours SD = 0.5 hours

Interprofessional psychoeducation	10 hours	Mean = 9 hours SD = 1.3 hours	2 hours	Mean = 2 hours SD = 0.1 hours
Community engagement	6 hours	Mean = 5.4 hours SD = 0.8 hours	2 hours	Mean = 1.9 hours SD = 0.1 hours
Hours per week	21 hours per week	Mean = 19.8 hours per week	12 hours per week	Mean = 10.8 hours per week
TIR*	52.5%	49.3%	30%	27.2%
Session density of 1:1 sessions	1.0	Mean = 0.79 SD = 0.15	1.0	Mean = 0.83 SD = 0.16

*Notes. Mins Minutes; SD Standard Deviation; TIR Therapeutic Intensity Ratio. * TIR is the proportion of a 40-hour week spent in treatment.*

Table 4. Episode Characteristics for SFA and VNeST

MDAF dimension	SFA	VNeST
Episode Length <i>How much of task is performed in a given amount of time (i.e., how long it took to get through one episode of a treatment)</i>	Mean = 12.3 minutes; Standard deviation = 5.2 minutes	Mean = 17.7 minutes; Standard deviation = 6.8 minutes
Episode Intensity <i>How much of the task is performed per episode; framed in this context based on number of proposed active ingredients (i.e., therapeutic inputs from clinician and participant opportunities for production)</i>	<p><u>Proposed Active Ingredients:</u></p> <p>(1) Therapeutic inputs; (2) Opportunities for production of target word; and (3) Opportunities for production of associated semantic features</p> <p><i>Therapeutic Inputs</i> Mean = 9.5 therapeutic inputs per episode; Standard deviation = 8.1 therapeutic inputs per episode;</p> <p><i>Target</i> Mean = 1.7 opportunities per episode; Standard deviation = 2.1 opportunities per episode;</p> <p><i>Non-target associated features</i> Mean = 7.3 opportunities per episode; Standard deviation = 4.1 opportunities per episode</p> <p><i>Total Proposed Active Ingredients</i> Mean = 18.5 active ingredients per episode; Standard deviation = 13.9 active ingredients per episode</p>	<p><u>Proposed Active Ingredients:</u></p> <p>(1) Therapeutic inputs including: (a) Presentation of target verb; (b) Presentation of prompts for three subjects; (c) Presentation of prompts for three objects; (d) Prompts for response to three wh- questions; (e) Prompts for three SVO/SVO+ productions; (f) presentation of 12 yes/no questions regarding syntactic plausibility; (g) verb recall; (h) any additional cues or redirects;</p> <p>(2) Opportunities for independent production during lexical retrieval components of VNeST including: (a) three subjects; (b) three objects; (c) wh- responses; (d) reading scenarios outloud (SVO/SVO+ production); (e) responses to yes/no syntactic judgement questions; (f) opportunity for verb recall</p> <p><i>Therapeutic Inputs</i></p>

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Unable to track due to inconsistent reporting of clinician prompts/supports

Opportunities for Independent Production
Mean = 26.2 opportunities for production per episode;
Standard deviation = 4.3 opportunities per episode

Note: Episode difficulty (i.e., how hard the task is to perform) was not measured

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Table 5. Differences in VNeST episode length and intensity between two participants

	ICAP Participant “Jody”	ICAP Participant “Stella”
Episode length	Mean = 19.3 minutes per episode; Standard deviation = 6.8 minutes	Mean = 7.93 minutes per episode; Standard deviation = 1.6 minutes
Episode intensity*	Mean = 24.62 production opportunities per episode; Standard deviation = 4.82 opportunities per episode	Mean = 25.09 production opportunities per episode; Standard deviation = 0.52 opportunities per episode
Sum of Episodes	Mean = 2.5 episodes per session; Standard deviation = 1.1 episodes per session	Mean = 1.2 episodes per session; Standard deviation = 0.4 episodes per session

Note. VNeST Verb Network Strengthening Treatment. *Only participant opportunities for production were accounted for in each episode of VNeST, due to inconsistent tracking of clinician therapeutic inputs. Thus, not all active ingredients are accounted for. See Vignette 2 for more information.

Appendix A. The TIDiER guideline template for the UMT ICAP

1. Brief Name	University of Montana (UMT) ICAP; Big Sky Aphasia Program (BSAP)
2. Why	<p>Intensive comprehensive aphasia programs (ICAPs) are an emerging service delivery model for rehabilitation of aphasia following stroke or brain injury. The number of ICAPs across the country/world is increasing due to a desire to approach aphasia rehabilitation from a holistic and biopsychosocial foundation, while also implementing intensive therapy, which has been found to yield effective therapeutic outcomes (Rose et al., 2021). The overarching goal of an ICAP is to maximise communication potential and improve life participation. ICAPs are multi-faceted and take into consideration the many aspects of communication needs faced by persons with aphasia and their family care partners.</p> <p>ICAPs are designed to treat stroke survivors with aphasia and their family care partners - most frequently during the post-acute phase of rehabilitation and recovery from stroke. Participants should be medically stable and able to maintain alertness and attention for the duration of the program.</p> <p>The mission of the Big Sky Aphasia Program (BSAP) at the University of Montana is to provide high-quality, cost-effective, research-driven speech and language therapy to individuals with aphasia and associated deficits resulting from stroke and traumatic brain injury, while serving as a clinical training facility for graduate student clinicians who attend the School of Speech, Language, Hearing, and Occupational Sciences in the Speech-Language Pathology graduate program at the University of Montana. The ICAP at the University of Montana was initially implemented during the summer of 2011 and has been refined over the years, collaborating with interprofessional colleagues including speech-language pathologists, a family counsellor, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and pharmacists. We continue to explore interprofessional experiences in an ongoing manner each year. The BSAP ICAP has clearly defined intensity parameters and is designed to treat the patient-family care partner unit. The BSAP ICAP implements comprehensive, evidence-based therapy to address multiple modalities using strategies, community engagement experiences, and recreational opportunities individualised to each patient-family care partner unit. A primary mission of the BSAP ICAP is to serve families in the Mountain West region of the United States and to serve families living rurally who do not have regular, ongoing access to post-acute aphasia services, while providing training for graduate student clinicians in speech-language pathology and other health care professions. Delivering the ICAP in the university clinic context allows us to keep program costs low to best serve</p>

	<p>families engaged in the rehabilitation process for the chronic condition of aphasia.</p> <p>Stroke survivors with aphasia who participate in the Big Sky Aphasia Program make significant and meaningful gains towards their language function (i.e., speaking, reading, writing, and understanding others) and communicative participation skills (e.g., emailing, texting, holding conversations). Outcomes data collected from our program (2015-2019) show improvements across language domains and nonverbal problem solving (Griffin-Musick, et al., 2020, 2021). Participants with aphasia and their families have also reported an improved sense of well-being, a better understanding of aphasia and stroke rehabilitation, and report that they are better able navigate daily life with aphasia. Qualitative data we have collected (Off et al., 2022) from some of our participants suggests that stroke survivors with aphasia report both challenges (e.g., communicating with people with a wide range of language ability) and successes (e.g., building friends) while working in the cohort model.</p>
<p>3. What Physical and informational materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salient materials (e.g., pictures, target words/phrases/sentences, video clips) for all individual, small group, and large group sessions. • Physical stimuli to reference during small and large group sessions (e.g., fishing rods) • Technology including smartphones, tablets, and laptops, associated applications • Aphasia-friendly educational handouts (e.g., aphasia, stroke recovery, communication strategies) • Low-tech AAC (e.g., whiteboards, alphabet boards) • Lesson plans for all sessions • Data collection logs & treatment fidelity logs

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4 **4. What**
5 **Procedures**

6 All therapy sessions (i.e., individual, small group, large group) are
7 designed to focus on communicative participation, evidence-based
8 therapy, use of multiple language modalities, and communicative
9 strategies that are individualised to each patient–family care partner unit.

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11 Treatment approaches are selected on an individual basis for each
12 participant. A variety of impairment, activity, and participation-based
13 evidence-based approaches are implemented across participants. For the
14 summer 2023 programming, clinicians chose from the following
15 evidence-based therapies for use in the individual sessions:

- 16 • Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA; Boyle et al., 1995)
- 17 • Verb Network Strengthening Treatment (VNeST; Edmonds et al.,
18 2009)
- 19 • Phonological Components Analysis (PCA; Leonard, Rochon, &
20 Laird, 2008)
- 21 • Phonomotor Therapy (PMT; Kendall et al., 2016)
- 22 • Response Elaboration Treatment (RET; Kearns, 1985)
- 23 • Combined Aphasia and Apraxia of Speech Treatment (CAAST,
24 Wambaugh et al., 2014)
- 25 • Oral Reading for Language in Aphasia (ORLA, Cherney, 2010)
- 26 • Copy and Recall Treatment (CART, Beeson, 1999)
- 27 • Intensive Auditory Comprehension Treatment for Severe Aphasia
28 (IAC; Knollman-Porter et al., 2018).

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33 In addition to these evidence-based treatment approaches, individual
34 sessions also included:

- 35 • Individualised goal setting using the life participation approach
36 (LPAA; Chapey, 2000) and Life Interest and Value (LIV) cards
37 (Haley et al., 2010)
 - 38 • Conversation partner training and education including:
39 ○ Education about aphasia and stroke recovery
40 ○ Barrier tasks using tenets of Promoting Aphasic's
41 Communicative Effectiveness (PACE, Davis, 2005)
 - 42 • Use of compensatory strategies (e.g., text to speech applications)
 - 43 • Training of word-finding strategies (e.g., circumlocution, self-
44 cueing, writing)
 - 45 • AAC training and education
46 ○ Including interprofessional AAC device consultations with
47 Assistive Technology specialists
 - 48 • Use of cueing hierarchies
 - 49 • Strategy-based reading treatments (e.g., print blocker) and
50 supported reading comprehension using aphasia-friendly text
51 supports (e.g., underlining key words)
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- Functional reading and writing tasks (e.g., sending text messages)
- Metacognitive education and training to analyze performance and progress

Materials were individualized and salient to each participant/dyad as appropriate for each treatment approach. Stimuli often include video clips, music samples, pictures, written words/phrases/sentences/paragraphs/discourse/short stories/books.

Small group sessions often include conversation or narrative-based interventions that encourage multimodality communication. Care partner psychoeducation and communication partner training is often included. Includes home programming developed for the months after treatment ends, with suggestions for computer-based therapy apps (i.e., Constant Therapy) and AAC apps.

5. Who Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Montana ICAP Directors develop and coordinate all aspects of ICAP programming including patient enrollment. The ICAP Directors oversee the implementation of all aspects of the ICAP. ICAP Directors are nationally-certified, state-licensed speech-language pathologists with expertise in aphasia management and aphasia research. • Nationally-certified and state-licensed speech-language pathologists who are trained in ICAP aphasia management provide clinical education and supervision for all ICAP assessment and treatment sessions – directly supervising all speech-language pathology graduate student clinicians. • Interprofessional faculty (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, counselling) who are certified and licensed in their respective disciplines collaborate with the ICAP Directors prior to the start of the ICAP to develop appropriate interprofessional content, experiences, and student supervision. They also collaborate with the ICAP clinical educators/supervisors during treatment as needed. • Graduate student clinicians enrolled in the University of Montana’s speech-language pathology program are trained for two weeks prior to the ICAP. They implement all assessment and treatment under supervision in accordance with American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) standards. Graduate student clinicians in other health professions provide discipline-specific interventions under supervision by appropriate interprofessional faculty.
6. How	<p>All in-person ICAPs are implemented face to face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual therapy includes one participant with aphasia, one graduate student clinician, family care partner [when appropriate]. • Small group sessions include two to four participants with aphasia and their graduate student clinicians. • Large group sessions include six to eight participants with aphasia and their graduate student clinicians (e.g., aphasia community group, aphasia clubs, community engagement activities, opening/closing sessions).
7. Where	<p>The University of Montana in Missoula, Montana, USA; onsite DeWit RiteCare Speech, Language, and Hearing Clinic located in the Curry Health Center.</p>

8. When and How Much	<p>The UMT ICAP typically runs once each year, during May and June. During the Summer of 2023 we piloted a 2-week mICAP in July.</p> <p>ICAP (May and June 2023): Persons with aphasia attended the ICAP for 5-6 hours per day, 4 days per week, for 4 weeks (totaling 84 hours of speech-language treatment). Family care partners were invited to attend a weekly care partner psychoeducation and communication training group, individualised communication partner training sessions, and community engagement activities.</p> <p>mICAP (July 2023): Persons with aphasia attended the mICAP for 4 hours per day, 3 days per week, for 2 weeks (totaling 24 hours of speech-language treatment). Family care partners were invited to attend a weekly care partner psychoeducation and communication training group, individualised communication partner training sessions, and community engagement activities.</p>
9. Tailoring	All therapy approaches, stimuli, and communication support materials were individualised and made salient for each patient/care partner unit.
10. Modifications	Treatment delivery was modified as needed based on factors related to fatigue, motivation, collaborative goals, family care partner involvement, and strengths and weaknesses of the participant. Multimodality support was infused throughout all sessions.
11. How Well (Planned)	<p>For the Summer 2023 ICAP and mICAP we planned to assess treatment fidelity using treatment fidelity logs, within-session data collection logs, and video recordings of all individual treatment sessions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment Fidelity Logs: This log was designed to allow graduate student clinicians to document the total minutes of participant attendance for each session across days and weeks of treatment during the ICAP/mICAP. Clinical supervisors or ICAP Directors were instructed to sign off on this log to ensure accuracy. See Appendix C: ICAP Treatment Fidelity Log. • Daily Summary Dosage Log: This log was designed to allow graduate student clinicians and research assistants to document daily participation in individual (i.e., clinician, patient) treatment sessions. This log documented the following: (1) start and end time for each individual treatment session, (2) room/location of treatment, (3) treatment approaches implemented during the session, and (4) start and end time for each treatment approach that was actively implemented (i.e., active treatment time). Video recordings were captured for all individual sessions for all participants to allow for additional fidelity checks. See Appendix D: Daily Summary Log.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment Approach-Specific Data Collection Sheets: Data collection sheets were created to document the following for each of the 9 evidence-based treatment approaches described above (What, Procedures): (1) start and end time for the treatment approach, (2) treatment targets used during the session, (3) start and end time of each treatment target, (4) treatment-approach specific data collection (e.g., accuracy, opportunities for production, cues). For an example, see Appendix D: VNeST Dosage Log.
12. How Well (Actual)	The ICAP and mICAP sessions were delivered as planned, although the total number of minutes of each session varied as a result of transition time, participant fatigue, and time needed to ambulate between locations.

Appendix B. Assessment Measures

Category of Assessment	Measure	Purpose
Screening Measures	Hearing screening	Determine presence/absence of normal or corrected to normal hearing
	Visual screening/cancellation task	Determine presence/absence of normal or corrected to normal vision; Determine presence/absence of visual neglect or agnosia
	Quick Aphasia Battery (QAB; Wilson et al., 2018)	Determine presence/absence of aphasia and severity of aphasia, resulting in a multidimensional profile of language function for study inclusion
	Language Experience and Proficiency Questionnaire (LEAP-Q; Marian et al., 2007)	Determine self-reported background information on bilingual and multilingual speakers; used to build participant communicative profile and inform treatment
Cognitive-Linguistic Measures	Western Aphasia Battery, Revised, Part 1 (WAB-R; Kertesz, 2006)	Determine type and severity of aphasia, including language profiles for fluency, auditory comprehension, repetition, and naming
	Boston Naming Test, Second Edition, Standard Form (BNT-2; Kaplan, Goodglass, & Weintraub, 2001)	Assess confrontational naming of concrete nouns of decreasing word frequency using a single modality language measure
	Raven's Coloured Progressive Matrices (RCPM; Kertesz, 2006)	Assess non-verbal cognitive and problem solving skills
	Scenario Test (Hilari & Dipper, 2020)	Assess how a person with aphasia conveys everyday messages in an interactive setting
	Informal Discourse Measures: Single picture description and story retell	Provide clinicians information regarding participant's spoken language for expositional narratives (i.e., picture description) and narrative discourse (i.e., story retell)

Communicative Participation Measures	Communicative Participation Item Bank (CPIB; Baylor et al., 2009)	Measure how a condition (i.e., aphasia) interferes with communication across a variety of different daily communicative participation scenarios
	Communicative Effectiveness Index (CETI; Lomas et al., 1989)	Proxy measure (i.e., completed by primary communication partner) to determine functional communication ability of the person with aphasia
Psychosocial Well-Being Measures	Stroke and Aphasia Quality of Life Scale (SAQoL-39; Hilari, Byng, Lamping, & Smith, 2003)	Measure health-related quality of life in individuals with aphasia across four domains (i.e., physical, psychosocial, communication, and energy)
	Modified Perceived Stress Scale (mPSS; Hunting Pompon et al., 2018)	Measure presence and severity of chronic stress for persons with aphasia
	General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ-12; Goldberg & Williams, 1988)	Screening tool to assess current mental health elements including anxiety and depression, social dysfunction, and loss of confidence
	Stroke Aphasic Depression Questionnaire-10 (SADQ-10; Sutcliffe & Lincoln, 1998)	Proxy measure (i.e., completed by family care partner or friend) used to rate the frequency at which certain observable behaviors thought to be associated with depressed mood occur

Appendix C. Treatment Fidelity Log

PWA Initials _____ PWA Code _____ Clinician Initials _____

Date	Opening Session	Individual Session #1	Small Group #1	Individual Session #2	Small Group #2	Aphasia Clubs	Aphasia Community Group	Hosted Lunch	Outing	Closing Session	Total Hours Attended	Supervisor Initial
WEEK ONE												
5/30	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
5/31	/15					/45	/150	/60	/90			
6/1	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/2	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
WEEK TWO												
6/6	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/7	/15					/45	/150	/60	/90			
6/8	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/9	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
WEEK THREE												
6/13	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/14	/15					/45	/150	/60	/90			
6/15	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/16	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
WEEK FOUR												
6/20	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/21	/15					/45	/150	/60	/90			
6/22	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		
6/23	/30	/60	/60	/60	/60					/30		

Clinician Signature:

Date:

Supervisor Signature:

Date:

Appendix D. Summary of Daily Individual Sessions

Date:
 Patient Initials:
 Clinician Name:
 Data Collector Name:

Session Start Time	Session End Time	Clinic Room	Treatment Approach	Active Treatment Approach Start Time	Active Treatment Approach End Time	Clinician Cue Types Used	# Opportunities	# Productions	Notes
Total Minutes of Individual Treatment Sessions:									
Total Minutes of Active Treatment:									

Clinician Cue Codes: Independent (I), Semantic (S), Phonemic (P), Written (W), Tactile/Gesture (T), Direct Model (DM), In Unison (U), No Response (NR)

Qualitative comments about participant’s daily individual sessions:

Appendix E. VNeST Data Log

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4 Patient Initials:
5 Clinician Name:
6 Data Collector Name:

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Verb Network Strengthening Treatment (VNeST) Data Collection Sheet

Start Time	End Time	Target (i.e., verb)	Generate 3 Subjects (WHO) (tally x/3 +code)	Generate 3 Objects (WHAT) (tally x/3 +code)	SVO/ SVO+ Production (tally + code)	WHERE (tally +code)	WHY (tally +code)	WHEN (tally +code)	Sentence Judgement (x/12)	Recall, Naming of Verb (Y/N)	# Patient Productions	Time Spent on Target (min)
Number of targets treated during active treatment time:												

WHO/WHAT/WHERE/WHEN/WHY CODING: Independent (I), Prompt (P), Multiple Choice (MC)
SVO & EXPANDED SENTENCE PRODUCTION CODING: Independent (I), Reads in Unison (U), Repeats Each Word (R); Increased Grammatical Complexity (G)

VNeST Qualitative Comments (Was treatment approach or cuing strategy(s) modified, notes about treatment implementation, notes about additional clinician support):

Appendix F. SFA Dosage Log

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2 Date:
3 Patient Initials:
4 Clinician Name:
5 Data Collector Name:
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9 Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA) Data Collection Sheet

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Start Time	End Time	Target (i.e., noun or verb)	Independent Production of Target? (Y/N)	Group	Use	Action	Association	Location	Properties	# Pt Productions	Time Spent on Target (min)

33 **Number of targets treated during active treatment time:**

34 **Semantic Feature (in grey) Cue Codes:** Independent (I), Semantic (S), Phonemic (P), Written (W), Direct Model (DM), No Response (NR)

35 **SFA Qualitative Comments** (Was treatment approach or cuing strategy(s) modified, notes about treatment implementation):
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