

Search for Knowledge

# Beckman Oral Motor

[www.beckmanoralmotor.com](http://www.beckmanoralmotor.com)



## **Debra Beckman**

Debra Beckman has worked in the field of communicative disorders since 1975, specializing in motor speech disorders. She has worked in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, universities, trauma centers, home-bound, foster homes, group homes, Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Challenged (ICF-MRs), nursing homes, and large residential facilities. She has co-authored training materials for the states of Florida, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, which are used in a number of other states as well. She has served as a court appointed witness and as a resource content expert for seven federal court cases regarding services for the developmentally disabled. Ms. Beckman has presented at numerous local, state, national, and international conferences and has published articles in professional books, journals, monographs; and in *Exceptional Parent* magazine. She has been awarded a United States patent for a therapeutic oral probe. Ms. Beckman has been recognized by her peers and her community for clinical achievement.

## **Beckman Oral Motor©**

### **WHAT IS IT AND HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER ORAL MOTOR PROGRAMS?**

"Oral motor" has been defined in a variety of ways. Many of the strategies of the 1950's and '60's were primarily stimulation techniques, such as brushing (pressure massage), icing (thermal stimulation), quick stretch (tapping), and vibration (manual and mechanical). These strategies have been used by physical and occupational therapists to prepare a muscle area for movement. These strategies cannot change the range of movement of a muscle or the strength of a muscle without additional muscle movement. Other oral motor techniques require the individual's cognitive cooperation to follow a command in order to complete a movement. But what if the individual cannot cooperate cognitively, or, due to significant motor involvement, cannot follow the therapist's verbal directive to "lick your lips," or "move your tongue up toward your nose," or "round and spread your lips?" Many individuals with impaired oral motor skills are not able to follow a command for oral movement. To better serve such individuals, Debra Beckman has, since 1975, worked to develop these specific interventions which provide assisted movement to activate muscle contraction and to provide movement against resistance to build strength. The focus of these interventions is to increase functional response to pressure and movement, and improved range, strength, variety and control of movement for the lips, cheeks, jaw and tongue. The interventions needed are determined by an assessment, the Beckman Oral Motor Protocol©, which uses assisted movement and stretch reflexes to quantify response to pressure and movement, range, strength, variety and control of movement for the lips cheeks, jaw, tongue and soft palate. The assessment is based on clinically defined functional parameters of minimal competence and does not require the cognitive participation of the individual. Because these components of movement are functional, not age specific, the protocol is useful with a wide range of ages (neonatal to geriatric) and diagnostic categories.

### **WHAT AREAS ARE AFFECTED BY POOR ORAL MOTOR SKILLS?**

Oral motor skills are critical to basic functions that occur even when we are asleep, such as controlling secretions, swallowing, and maintaining alignment of the oral structures so that breathing is not interrupted. Oral motor skills impact basic survival such as sucking and swallowing by infants that begin by the third month of gestation. Development of these skills enhance the progression from breast milk or formula, then to pureed foods, and on to table foods, as well as the skills needed to progress from sucking a nipple, to using a wide variety of utensils, including straws, cups, spoons, and forks. Oral skills also impact the control needed for speech development, from producing the cooing sounds as an infant, to articulating complex words in conversational speech. Poor oral motor skills can result in delayed or reduced skill development for the areas listed above. The individual may be described as hypersensitive, a lazy talker or a picky or messy eater. In addition, problems such as drooling, bruxism (tooth grinding) and gagging may occur.

### **WHO SHOULD PROVIDE ORAL MOTOR THERAPY?**

Oral motor skills are impacted by many different things on the outside and on the inside of the body. Positioning and alignment of the body affect oral movement. Whether or not the individual has digested and passed out the food from prior meals affect oral skills. How alert the individual is also affects oral skills. Because of this, many professionals play a part in improving oral motor skills. Beckman recommends that a primary therapist be designated, typically a licensed speech pathologist, who will assess the oral motor skills using the Beckman Oral Motor Assessment Protocol©, determine the oral motor interventions needed, and work closely with the other team members: care givers, occupational therapy, physical therapy, registered dietitian, teachers, psychologists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and others as indicated by the needs of the individual.

### **DO ALL THERAPISTS RECEIVE THE TRAINING NEEDED TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE?**

Training programs for therapists vary from university to university. Each offers a core curriculum with the basics of anatomy and physiology necessary and may provide an overview of the Beckman Oral Motor Protocol©. Additional training and experience prepare the therapist for better focus on oral motor skills. Onsite clinic practicum may provide exposure to the Beckman Oral Motor Protocol©. Currently, the only means of receiving comprehensive training in the Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention© methods is by attending a Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention© Workshop.

### **BECKMAN ORAL MOTOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE (BOMRI)**

BOMRI is an electronic user group where healthcare professionals that have completed training in the Beckman Oral Motor Assessment & Intervention Protocol can exchange information and engage in research studies surrounding oral motor. As Beckman Oral Motor Assessment Protocol can **quantify** the functional strength of oro-facial muscle structures, its uniform application in research studies linking oro-facial dysfunction to various syndromes and **quantifying** the effectiveness of any oro-facial intervention therapy will be instrumental in standardizing oral motor therapy in healthcare education and practice.

## **Oral Motor Assessment & Intervention Course Description**

Oral motor impairment presents a variety of challenges for both the individual affected, and for the care team providing intervention. Often the individual experiencing oral motor difficulties is not able to follow commands. The person may not be eating or taking fluids orally, which reduces the opportunities for observation of oral movement patterns. The majority of baseline protocols currently available require at least minimal direction-following skills. The protocol developed by Beckman uses mechanical muscle responses, which are not mediated cognitively, to baseline the response to pressure and movement, range of movement, variety of movement, strength of movement and control of movement for the lips, cheeks, jaw, and tongue. In this two day course (16 contact hours or 1.6 CEUs), participants will actively participate in hands-on practice for compensatory handling techniques for the following concerns: tonic bite, tonic bite on a utensil, slow oral transit, tongue thrust, cough, gag and vomit. The participants will complete an oral motor protocol with each other, analyze the results, and discuss data tracking. The participants will also complete hands-on practice for specific oral motor interventions to address the deficit areas discovered during baseline assessment. Additional topics of discussion may include: goal writing, diet texture progression, tube to oral issues, adaptive mealtime utensils, oral hygiene issues, medication administration issues, oral function for individuals with trachs, facilitating improved articulation through oral motor techniques, research issues, videofluoroscopy issues for motorically involved individuals, and additional topics of importance as determined by the participants. The information and techniques presented are inclusive, and should augment the skills and knowledge base of each participant.

**Participants:** Licensed speech pathologists and occupational therapists

**Instructional Level:** INTERMEDIATE - This program is offered for 1.6 CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area, knowledge of oral structures, muscles, and innervations).

**Course Objectives:** Participants will:

1. Demonstrate assessment battery for determining oro-facial movement patterns using the Beckman protocol.
2. Demonstrate compensatory handling techniques.
3. Demonstrate oral motor interventions and treatment techniques.

**Pre-Post Test Questions:**

1. How does sensory input affect oral motor patterns?
2. How does gravity affect oral motor patterns?
3. What components must be assessed to determine oral motor function?
4. What interventions would increase secretion control and decrease drooling?
5. What interventions would decrease tongue thrust?

**Course Agenda:**

**Day One:**

**8:00 - 10:00** Topic Areas; Mealtime Myths, Neuroanatomy, Impact of Sensory System, Impact of Gravity on Function, Nursing and Bottles, Oral Patterns, Case Studies – Slides and Tapes

**10:00 – 10:15** Break

**10:15 - 12:00** Case Studies - Mealtime Job Aides – Position, Texture, Temperature, Consistency, Utensils

**12:00 – 1:00** Lunch

**1:00 - 3:00** Compensatory Techniques –Tonic Bite, Tonic Bite on a Utensil, Coughing, Gagging/Vomiting (hands on practice)

**3:15 - 4:15** Loss of Food/Fluid, Delayed Oral Transit

**4:15 - 5:30** Assessment & Intervention Videos – Infant and Adult

**Day Two:**

**8:00 - 10:00** Assessment & Intervention Techniques for Oral Structures – Lips, Gums, Base of Tongue (hands on practice)

**10:00 – 10:15** Break

**10:15 - 12:00** Continue Assessment & Intervention Techniques – Cheeks, Jaw (hands on practice)

**12:00 – 1:00** Lunch

**1:00 – 3:00** Continue Assessment & Intervention Techniques for Oral Structures – Tongue, Hard Palate, Soft Palate (hands on practice)

**3:00 – 3:15** Break

**3:15 - 4:00** Continue Assessment & Intervention Techniques (hands on practice)

Analysis of Findings, Goals & Objectives, Application of Findings

**4:00 - 5:30** Home Program, Maintenance, Tube to Oral Transition, Discussion, Post Test

## **Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention© Course Options**

### **HOST:**

**Two free seats for hosting** - A \$1,000 value. Additional seats may be purchased at the listed rates.

Host shall provide the following and be responsible for all related expenditures:

- Provide an accessible and appropriate facility for conducting the Scheduled Course, with adequate seating based on the number of participants (maximum 120, classroom style setting), including registration table and 2 display tables and seats for a maximum of 12 lab assistants.
- Coordinate a walk-through of the conference room with the conference facilitator the day prior to the start date of the conference
- Provide entrance to the conference room at 6:30 am the first day of the conference
- Provide entrance to the conference room at 7:00 am the second day of the conference.
- Provide adequate waste receptacles (recommend one per every 6 participants)
- Provide necessary audio/visual equipment
- LCD projector with means of connecting laptop computer, DVD, and camera
- Screen or screens appropriate size for viewing by all participants
- hands-free wireless microphone system
- speakers for DVD and microphone system
- audio/visual professional consultation day prior to start date of conference to check all equipment
- audio/visual professional available on site at 6:30 am the morning of the first day of the conference and available on call throughout 2-day course.
- Provide street address and directions to the facility.
- Recommend hotels that are close to the facility that can provide suitable lodging.
- Provide beverages and snacks for mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks each day.
- Provide current contact information for the host facility coordinator(s).

### **Beckman shall provide the following and be responsible for all related expenditures:**

- Promotional brochure
- CEU pre-approval for Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists
- Evaluation Forms
- CEU permanent record forms
- Certificate of Attendance for each participant and lab assistant

The host is not involved in registration process and there is little expense to the host agency. An agency outside of the United States **CANNOT** host; it must be a sponsor. Please review the Agreement for Course Host to ensure you have the necessary workshop support. Contact the Education Director, Beckman Oral Motor, for this document.

Education Director contact information:  
phone: (407) 590-4852  
email: [info@beckmanoralmotor.com](mailto:info@beckmanoralmotor.com)

## **SPONSOR:**

**\$17,500 for 15-30 participants**

**\$300 per participant for participants totaling 31 – 120.**

In addition, Sponsor shall provide the following and be responsible for all related expenditures:

- Provide an accessible and appropriate facility for conducting the Scheduled Course, with adequate seating based on the number of participants, including registration table and 2 display tables.
- Coordinate a walk-through of the conference room with the conference facilitator the day prior to the start date of the conference
- Provide entrance to the conference room at 6:30 am the first day of the conference
- Provide entrance to the conference room at 7:00 am the second day of the conference.
- Provide adequate waste receptacles (recommend one per every 6 participants)
- Provide necessary audio/visual equipment
- LCD projector with means of connecting laptop computer, DVD, and camera
- Screen or screens appropriate size for viewing by all participants
- hands-free wireless microphone system
- speakers for DVD and microphone system
- audio/visual professional consultation day prior to start date of conference to check all equipment
- audio/visual professional available on site at 6:30 am the morning of the first day of the conference and available on call throughout 2-day course.
- Provide beverages and snacks for mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks each day.
- **Registration processing**
- **Sign-in sheets and name tags**
- Provide current contact information for the sponsor facility coordinator(s).
- **Provide a facilitator for the registration desk and to assist as needed.**
- **Provide a minimum of one lab assistant for every 10 participants to assist with the hands-on portion of the course. This assistant must have attended the Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention© course previously, and be familiar with techniques taught in class. If the Sponsor does not have access to enough personnel fitting this description, Beckman may assist in this process. The Sponsor will be responsible for any travel expenses incurred in providing lab assistants for the course.**
- **Provide the following course supplies:**
- **22 non-latex (vinyl) gloves per participant**

- hand sanitizer
- one roll of paper towels per 4-6 participants
- one-serving applesauce cup (4 oz.) per participant
- one E-Z Spoon per participant and lab assistant
- one NUK Gum Massager per participant and lab assistant
- one Beckman Oral Motor© Manual per participant and lab assistant

**Beckman shall provide the following and be responsible for all related expenditures:**

- Instruction for therapists in attendance
- CEU pre-approval for Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapists
- Evaluation Forms
- CEU permanent record forms and processing
- Certificate of Attendance

Some agencies choose to sponsor the course so that employees can attend for free or at a reduced cost. **Organizations outside of the United States do not have the host option and must be a sponsor.** Beckman will post the scheduled course, a link to sponsor's brochure, and contact information on the Beckman Oral Motor website, [www.beckmanoralmotor.com](http://www.beckmanoralmotor.com) if the sponsor so desires. **Agencies that sponsor (purchase the conference) are responsible for accepting and processing all registrations, advertising, etc.** For this option, please review Agreement for Course Sponsor. Contact the Education Director, Beckman Oral Motor, for this document. Education Director contact information: phone: (407) 590-4852 email: [info@beckmanoralmotor.com](mailto:info@beckmanoralmotor.com)

#### **Beckman Oro-facial Deep Tissue Release Course Description**

This is a one day course. *Beckman Oral Motor Assessment & Intervention*© is a pre-requisite to the *Beckman Oro-facial Deep Tissue Release*© course. Twenty-four (24) is the maximum number of participants for this course. During this course, participants will practice specific deep tissue release for the upper and lower lips, upper and lower cheeks, midface, jaw, and tongue. These interventions focus on increased range of movement for these structures. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to review techniques about which they have questions from the two-day course. Participants are invited to bring videotaped case studies for discussion and problem solving.

**Participants:** Licensed speech pathologists and occupational therapists

**Instructional Level:** - ADVANCED - This program is offered for 0.7 CEUs (Advanced level; Professional area).

**Course Objectives:** Participants will:

1. Demonstrate intervention options for mobility of the lips, cheeks, midface, jaw, and tongue using deep tissue release
2. Problem solve issues regarding client specific oral motor and mealtime concerns
3. Demonstrate oral motor assessment and intervention techniques as determined by the participants

**Pre-Post Test Questions:**

1. Where is deep tissue release pressure provided?
2. When is deep tissue release indicated?
3. How can the impact of deep tissue release be determined?

**7:45 – 8:00** Registration

**8:00 – 8:15** Pre-Test

**8:15 – 10:15** Deep tissue releases for the lips  
(hands on practice)

**10:15 – 10:30** Break

**10:30 – 12:00** Deep tissue releases for upper & Lower Cheeks (hands on practice)

**12:00 – 1:00** Lunch Break

**1:00 – 2:30** Deep tissue releases for the jaw (hands on practice)

**2:30 – 2:45** Break

**2:45 – 4:00** Deep tissue releases for the tongue (hands on practice)

**4:00 – 4:45** Case studies, discussion

**4:45 – 5:00** Post-Test

**Beckman Oro-facial Deep Tissue Release© Course Options:****HOST:**

Contact the Education Director, Beckman Oral Motor, to discuss this option.

Education Director contact information:

phone: (407) 590-4852

email: [info@beckmanoralmotor.com](mailto:info@beckmanoralmotor.com)

**SPONOR:****\$6,000 for 6-24 Participants**

In addition, Sponsor shall provide the following and be responsible for all related expenditures:

- Provide an accessible and appropriate facility for conducting the Scheduled Course, with adequate seating based on the number of attendees including registration and display tables.
- Provide an audio/visual professional that can be immediately available for the entirety of the course.
- Provide the following audio/visual equipment:
  - LCD projector
  - hands-free wireless microphone system
  - **Provide the following supplies for the course:**
    - **10 non-latex (vinyl) gloves per participant**
    - **hand sanitizer**
    - **one roll of paper towels per 4-6 participants**
    - **one waste receptacle per eight participants**
    - **sign-in sheet and name tags**
  - **Provide a facilitator for the registration desk and to assist as needed.**
  - **Provide beverages and snacks for mid-morning and mid-afternoon break.**

**Beckman shall provide the following and be responsible for all related**

**expenditures:**

- One Beckman Oral Motor© Deep Tissue Release Booklet per participant

**Agencies that purchase the conference are responsible for accepting and processing all registrations, advertising, etc.** Beckman & Associates will provide the CEUs and Certificates of Attendance.

For this option, please review Agreement for Deep Tissue Release Course Sponsor. Contact the Education Director, Beckman Oral Motor, for this document.

Education Director contact information:

phone: (407) 590-4852

email: [info@beckmanoralmotor.com](mailto:info@beckmanoralmotor.com)

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BECKMAN ORAL MOTOR©

(407) 590-4852 fax: (407) 647-6415 email: [info@beckmanoralmotor.com](mailto:info@beckmanoralmotor.com)

Name of Entity: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

We are interested in the 2-day Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention© Course.

We would like to:  host  sponsor

We are interested in the 1-day Beckman Oral Motor Oro-facial Deep Tissue Release© Course.

Course must be scheduled in conjunction with the 2-day course

Course will be scheduled one day prior to the 2-day course

We desire to conduct the 2-day course on the following days

Thursday/Friday  Friday/Saturday

The dates that the 2-day course would be best for our facility are:

(Please list one or more dates that you are considering)

Our conference room can comfortably seat \_\_\_\_\_ in a classroom-style setting.

Does your facility have anyone that has previously attended the Beckman Oral Motor Assessment and Intervention course?  No  Yes – How many? \_\_\_\_\_