

## SOAP Notes

### APSU Writing Center Handout

#### SOAP (Subjective/Objective/Assessment/Plan) Notes

SOAP notes are a structured documentation method used in healthcare settings (e.g., clinics, hospitals, therapy practices) to record patient encounters in a clear, consistent, and organized format. This framework promotes continuity of care, clinical reasoning, and effective communication among providers.

#### Subjective (S) Patient Report

This section captures information reported directly by the patient or caregiver.

It includes:

- Chief complaint
- Symptoms described in the patient's own words
- Patient-reported feelings, concerns, or changes
- Relevant medical or social history updates
- Direct quotes when appropriate

**Example:** I've been having more difficulty concentrating at school this week.

#### Objective (O) Measurable Data

This section contains observable, measurable, and factual data collected by the clinician.

It includes:

- Quantifiable performance data
- Results from assessments, screenings, or standardized tests

- Vital signs
- Observable behaviors
- Specific accuracy percentages or performance metrics

**Example:** Hortensia produced the target sound /r/ with 60% accuracy across 20 structured trials.

### **Assessment (A) Clinical Interpretation**

This section provides the clinician's professional interpretation of the subjective and objective data.

It includes:

- Clinical impressions
- Progress toward goals
- Response to treatment
- Comparison of previous sessions
- Identification of patterns, strengths, or barriers
- Updated diagnosis (if applicable)

**Example:** Jay's accuracy decreased compared to last session (75% → 60%). Reduced performance is likely related to decreased sustained attention during structured tasks.

### **Plan (P) Next Steps**

This section outlines next steps in treatment and follow-up actions.

It includes:

- Treatment focus for the next session
- Modifications to the treatment plan

- Home program recommendations
- Referrals (if needed)
- Timeline for reassessment

**Example:** Next session will target word-initial bilabial stops (/p/, /b/) in structured sentence tasks. Attention-support strategies will be incorporated.

## References

Graduate Writing Center (2022). *SOAP Notes: A Writer's Guide*. University of Vermont.

[https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Graduate-WritingCenter/GWC%20Guides/Genres/SOAP\\_Notes\\_101.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/Graduate-WritingCenter/GWC%20Guides/Genres/SOAP_Notes_101.pdf)

The University of New Mexico (2022). Template for Clinical SOAP Note Format.

[https://fcm.unm.edu/education/images/docs/template\\_clin\\_soap\\_note.pdf](https://fcm.unm.edu/education/images/docs/template_clin_soap_note.pdf)

Miklasova, A. (2024, September 25). *How to write a SOAP note - including real-life examples*.

UpHeal. <https://www.upheal.io/documentation/soap-note-example>