Melodic Intonation Protocol

Basic

The clinician models a short phrase while speaking each **syllable on the beat** and simultaneously performing a synchronous motor movement with the patient (i.e., clapping, tapping, or stepping).

Example phrases:

- I – am – hun – gry
- My – name – is – Lu – cy
- Good – bye

The patient should **watch the clinician's mouth** while the phrase is modeled. The clinician may provide **hand-over-hand assistance** to help the patient synchronize their motor movement with the beat.

After modeling, the patient **imitates the phrase**, speaking each syllable on the beat while performing the synchronized motor movement. Assistance should be gradually reduced as the patient demonstrates improved timing and speech production.

Advanced

Increase task complexity by modifying the linguistic and cognitive demands of the phrase.

Difficulty can be increased by:

• Increasing the **number of words** in the phrase
Example:
It's – good – to – see – you – Har – ry

• Increasing the **number of syllables** in the phrase
Example:
Put – the – let – ter – in – the – en – ve – lope

• Using **less common or less automatic phrases**
Example:
I – vot – ed – in – the – e – lec – tion

The clinician should first **model the phrase while performing the motor movement**, providing hand-over-hand assistance if needed. The patient should observe the clinician's mouth and rhythm.

The patient then **imitates the phrase**, speaking each syllable on the beat while maintaining synchronized motor movement. Assistance should be reduced as the patient becomes more accurate and independent.

Optional Progression (if you want to include it)

You could add this little section since it fits IM nicely:

Progression Strategy

Patients may progress through the following stages:

1. Clinician models phrase with hand-over-hand assistance
2. Patient imitates phrase with motor synchronization
3. Patient produces phrase independently with the beat
4. Patient produces phrase independently without the beat

This progression supports the transition from **intoned speech toward natural speech production**.

Clinical Targets

Melodic intonation tasks help support:

- speech motor planning
- rhythm and timing of speech
- expressive language

- auditory–motor integration
- prosody and speech fluency