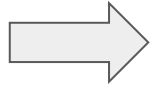


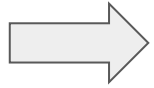
Aphasia & Communication Stroke Best Practice Recommendations

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1747493016643553> pages 476-477

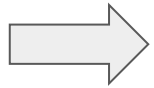
Accessibility: Aphasia Friendly



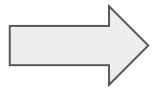
Pictographic resources



Paper, pen/markers



Signage: large clear print, key words & pictures,
eye level



All written material: consent forms, info on
procedures, names of personnel etc

Acknowledge Competence/Frustration

- Speak directly to the patient with aphasia
- Let them know “I know that you know”
- Ask their permission to ask their spouse questions about them
- Attribute breakdowns in communication to your limitations as a communicator (eg. “I did not explain that clearly” or “I’m not understanding”)

Revealing Competence: Getting the message IN

- Minimize distractions in the room if possible
- Sit at eye level and maintain eye contact
- Use short, simple sentences with an expressive voice
- Print key words
- Add gesture to support what you are saying
- Have plenty of paper (vs. whiteboard)- this way they may refer back to something said earlier; one idea per page
- Use pictures- focus on one at a time
- Be aware of any visual deficits (eg. double vision, right side neglect)
- Observe the person's facial expression, eye gaze, body posture or gestures to determine their level of comprehension.

Revealing Competence: Getting the message OUT

- Start with yes/no questions and make sure he/she has a way to respond
- Ask one thing at a time
- Ask patient to give you clues by gesturing (“show me”) or pointing to objects or pictures
- Offer word choices
- Give them time to respond

Revealing Competence: Did YOU understand?

Verify

- Summarize slowly and clearly with print
- Repeat the person's message
- Use phrases such as “so let me make sure I understand..” or “this is what I got, is there anything else?”
- Add gestures or drawings as necessary
- Draw boxes around correctly interpreted words, and cross out words that were NOT what he/she intended to say
- Recap if the conversation was a long one

Resources

- [Taking Action For Optimal Community and Long Term Stroke Care \(TACLS\)](#)
- [Educational Poster](#)
- **Aphasia Institute Resources**
 - [Professional Training Opportunities](#)
 - [Aphasia Institute Knowledge Exchange Speaker Series](#)
 - [Aphasia-friendly Resources](#)
 - [Pictographic Tools to Aid Conversation](#)