



### Hearing impairment

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## INTRODUCTION

Hearing is the ability to perceive sound. A person suffering from hearing impairment has difficulty in perceiving or identifying sound clearly due to auditory problems. The impairment may be unilateral or bilateral.

### Hearing loss

A hearing impairment is a hearing loss that prevents a person from totally receiving sounds through the ear. If the loss is mild, the person has difficulty hearing faint or distant speech. A person with this degree of hearing impairment may use a hearing aid to amplify sounds. If the hearing loss is severe, the person may not be able to distinguish any sounds. There are four types of hearing loss:

1. Conductive: caused by diseases or obstructions in the outer or middle ear that usually affect all frequencies of hearing. A hearing aid generally helps a person with a conductive hearing loss.
2. Sensorineural: results from damage to the inner ear. This loss can range from mild to profound and often affects certain frequencies more than others. Sounds are often distorted, even with a hearing aid.
3. Mixed: occurs in both the inner and outer or middle ear.
4. Central: results from damage to the central nervous system.

Degree of Hearing Loss Ability to perceive sound can be classified into five levels as listed below:

1. Mild- Difficult to identify soft sound such as whispering
2. Moderate- Unable to hear clearly what others are saying during conversation. Hearing aids are necessary.
3. Moderately- Severe Unable to clearly hear loud noises such as telephone ring
4. Severe- Only hear very loud noises and sounds such as shouting or vacuum cleaner noise
5. Profound- Difficult to perceive any sound

### Role of Nurse While Communicating with People Having Hearing impairment

For Concentration of hearing impaired patient Nurse has to keep following points in hear mind while communicating with hearing impair patient . Even when the person with hearing loss utilizes hearing aids and active listening strategies, for good communication Nurse should follow following points

Nurse should face the hearing impaired person directly:

In the same level and in good light While communicating with Patient, so that the light is shining on the speaker's face, not in the eyes of the listener.

**Nurse should not talk from another room or from Nursing Station**



Not able to see each other while talking is a common reason people have difficulty understanding what is said.

**Nurse should Speak clearly, slowly, distinctly, but naturally, without shouting or exaggerating mouth movements.**

While communicating Shouting distorts the sound of speech and may make speech reading more difficult.

**Nurse should use person's name before beginning a conversation.**

This gives the listener a chance to focus attention and reduces the chance of missing words at the beginning of the conversation.

**Nurse Should avoid talking too rapidly or using sentences that are too complex.**

Slow down a little, pause between sentences or phrases, and wait to make sure patient has been understood before going on.

**Nurse should not her hands on her face while talking.**

It create difficulty for Speech reading. Beards and moustaches can also interfere with the ability of the hearing impaired to speech read.

**Nurse should aware of possible distortion of sounds for the hearing impaired person.**

Hearing impair patient may hear Nurse's voice, but still may have difficulty understanding some words.

**Nurse should try to minimize extraneous noise when talking.**

Most hearing impaired patient have greater difficulty understanding speech when there is background noise.

**Nurse should avoid situations where there will be loud sounds when possible.**

Some people with hearing loss are very sensitive to loud sounds. This reduced tolerance for loud sounds is not uncommon.

If the hearing impaired person has difficulty understanding a particular phrase or word, try to find a different way of saying the same thing, rather than repeating the original words over and over.

**Nurse should acquaint the listener with the general topic of the conversation.**

Avoid sudden changes of topic. If the subject is changed, tell the hearing impaired patient what you are talking about now.

**Nurse should repeat the specifics Information.**

If you are giving specific information -- such as time, place or phone numbers -- to someone, repeat information for patient

**Nurse should provide pertinent information in writing.**

Use written material for giving some information like such as directions, schedules, work assignments, etc.



**Nurse should Pay attention to the listener.**

A puzzled look may indicate misunderstanding. Tactfully ask the hearing impaired patient if they understood you, or ask leading questions so you know your message got across.

**Nurse should guide patient for aural rehabilitation classes**

Guide hearing impaired patient and family for aural rehabilitation classes with spouse or friend

Aural Rehabilitation include auditory training, Speech reading, Speech training  
And the use of hearing aids



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