

REFERRAL TO OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Your speech – language therapist will attempt to work collaboratively with other health professionals involved in treating your case. At times it may be necessary for the practitioner to contact others to discuss your treatment plan. Your consent will be obtained before this occurs.

You may also be referred on to another health professional e.g. your GP, OT or a counsellor for additional testing, advice or treatment which is outside the scope of speech – language therapy.

CANCELLATIONS AND MISSED APPOINTMENTS

In the interest of other patients requiring appointments we require at least 24 hours notice if you wish to cancel. This allows us to offer your appointment time to another patient.

If you do not attend your appointment and fail to notify us you will be charged a cancellation fee. This will be 50% of the scheduled fee. Discretion will be used in cases of emergency and where appointments are rescheduled.



Health funds

Health funds rebates are available through Medicare and selected private health care funds. Please refer to your health fund policy for details of what services you are covered for.

For more information please contact
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Speech – Language Pathology

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STROKE PATIENTS



This leaflet is designed to answer any questions you may have about how to encourage speech and language recovery in someone who has had a stroke.

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Integrated
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TUES; 9:15 – 2:30

WED: 9:15 – 2:30

THURS; 1:30-5:30

Communication Problems following a Stroke

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted. As a result a person may sustain lasting damage to this part of the brain. A communication disability may occur after damage to almost any part of the brain.

The disability may include having difficulty:

- understanding speech
- speaking
- reading
- writing
- understanding and using body language and gestures
- thinking clearly
- concentrating
- remembering
- socialising
- hearing

Recovery

Recovery after a stroke is often slow and it is difficult to predict the level of recovery that will occur. Generally, the natural recovery process by the brain occurs mostly during the first six months, however it can occur up to and beyond two years. Recovery can be assisted greatly if a stroke survivor begins speech pathology rehabilitation soon after the problem has occurred.

The role of a speech pathologist after a stroke

Communication and swallowing difficulties can impact on a person's ability and confidence when socialising and participating in daily

activities. A speech pathologist can provide specialised therapy and advice regarding the best way to help a person with a communication/swallowing disability. Speech pathologists are specialists in treating adults and children with communication disabilities, including swallowing problems. A speech pathologist will tailor a treatment program to suit individual needs. A therapy program aims to:

- promote recovery of communication / swallowing skills which may include introducing alternative means of communicating/swallowing

What sort of disabilities might occur?

Understanding when someone

- may not be able to recognise sounds
- may lose the meaning of words
- may not remember information
- may not understand sentence structure

Talking when someone

- may know what something is but cannot say its name
- may substitute words or sounds while talking
- can say the main words but cannot link them into a grammatical sentence
- gets stuck on a word/sound
- may not be able to control automatic language such as swearing
- may have trouble explaining things clearly

Reading when someone

- may have trouble recognising and understanding letters or words
- may have trouble remembering and understanding lengthy sentences
- may have difficulty recalling details from long stories

Writing when someone

- has trouble forming letters into words and subsequently forming sentences
- may have trouble organising ideas into logical stories

DYSARTHRIA is a speech or voice disability resulting from muscle weakness, paralysis or poor coordination of the breathing and speech muscles. Dysarthria may result in:

- altered speech volume
- changed voice quality such as sounding harsh
- nasal sounding speech
- slurred speech
- speech that sounds all the same volume or pitch

Adapted from The Speech Pathology Association of Australia fact sheet 3.1, 11-19 Bank Plc Melbourne Vic 3000