

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Speech and Language therapists within the Community Stroke Team work with patients who have changes with:

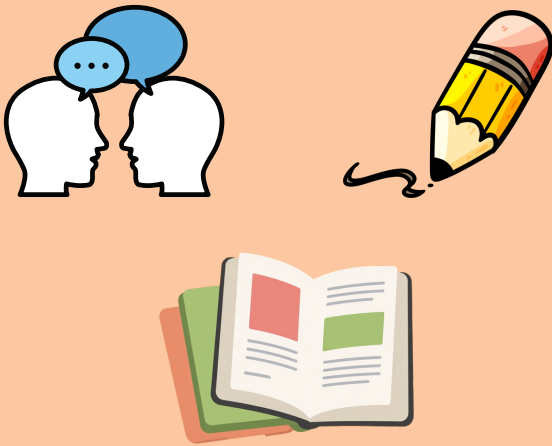


Speech and language



Eating and drinking

APHASIA



A language difficulty that can affect a person's ability to say what they want, understand what is being said to them, reading and writing. Aphasia on its own, does not affect intelligence. It is when the language processing area of the brain is affected by a stroke.

You may experience:

- Difficulty finding the words
- Reduced sentences
- Difficulty following instructions or conversation
- Difficulties understanding written words or text
- Writing difficulties

[Watch a video on What is Aphasia?](#)

[Watch a video on Communication Strategies](#)

APRAXIA OF SPEECH



Apraxia of speech is motor programming difficulty, where there is a disconnection between the brain signal and the mouth movements to coordinate the right speech sounds. Cognition, building words and thoughts, sentences, muscle strength, range and speed are intact.

You may experience:

- The incorrect sound coming out
- It may take multiple tries to get the word out correctly
- Altered intonation
- Slower, more hesitant speech

Click here for a video of apraxia of speech:

[Adult apraxia of speech.](#)

COMMUNITY STROKE TEAM



Community Stroke Team Tel 01604 544275
Northampton General Hospital
Cliftonville
Northampton
NN1 5BD [Community Stroke Team website](#)

USEFUL INFORMATION



- Stroke Association: [Home](#)
- British Aphasiology Society: [Home](#)
- [Speech Apraxia UK – Raising Awareness and Providing Support for Apraxia of Speech](#)
- [NHS aphasia information](#)

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY



How we may help

DYSARTHRIA



Dysarthria after a stroke is usually due to facial muscle weakness, that can affect the lips, tongue, breathing and vocal cords. You may experience:

- Drooping face on one side
- Speech may be slower
- Speech may be less clear
- Volume may be quieter

[Watch a video on What is Dysarthria?](#)

WHAT WE DO WITH COMMUNICATION CHANGES POST-STROKE



How we might help you:

- Discuss and work on your communication goals
- Provide rehabilitation exercises and therapy
- Provide strategies to manage your communication changes
- Provide advice and guidance on communication aids
- Discuss any IT solutions that might help with rehab and/or communicating
- Support you out and about with your communication goals, accompanying you on visits to carry out daily activities such as shopping or getting the bus

We work alongside our Community Stroke team colleagues to provide comprehensive and holistic care on your stroke rehabilitation journey.

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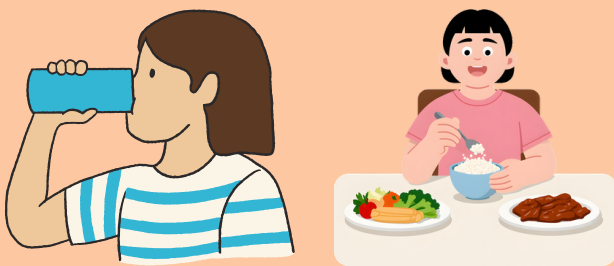


- [The National Aphasia Association - important information](#)
- [Aphasia software finder](#)
- [Dysarthria \(difficulty speaking\) - NHS](#)
- [Say Aphasia](#)

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

Eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties

DYSPHAGIA (SWALLOWING DIFFICULTIES)



Weakness or uncoordinated movements in the head and neck muscles after stroke may lead to swallowing difficulties.

You may experience:

- Coughing or choking when eating and drinking
- Difficulty chewing or controlling food in your mouth
- Food gets stuck in your throat
- Food comes out your nose
- Changes in your voice, becoming more nasal or 'wet' voice

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS MAY DISCUSS WITH YOU



- Modified diet and/or fluids
- Techniques and strategies
- Rehabilitation exercises to improve and restore swallow function
- Adapted cutlery and equipment

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USEFUL INFORMATION

- [Different Strokes](#)
- Modified diet and fluids - [Patient Handouts](#) - [Resources](#) - [IDDSI](#)

