



Hearing Rehabilitation Assessment

This document outlines the procedures used to assess the impact of hearing loss or other auditory impairment on communication and auditory experience. This will enable appropriate rehabilitation strategies to be recommended.

Expected Outcomes

Hearing rehabilitation assessment evaluates, describes and documents the receptive communication needs and skills of individuals with hearing loss or other auditory impairment.

Assessment may result in recommendations for therapy and/or further follow-up, or in referral for other examinations or services.

Clinical Indications

Individuals of all ages with some form of confirmed hearing loss or auditory impairment.

Clinical Process

Assessment will include evaluation of receptive communication and listening/auditory skills and may include evaluation of:

- communication ability of oral, signed, or written modalities
- hearing needs assessment
- case history
- perception of speech and non speech stimuli in multiple modalities
- listening/auditory and speech reading skills
- communication strategies used in everyday life
- communication skills of the person's frequent communication partners

Performance in both clinical and natural environments should be considered.

Hearing rehabilitation assessment may be part of an interdisciplinary process.

The assessment should consider the client's ability to participate in and benefit from the assessment and the subsequent rehabilitation process.



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Setting/Equipment Specifications

Hearing rehabilitation assessment is conducted in clinical or natural settings with consideration for physical, acoustic and visual characteristics of that environment.

The functioning of hearing aids, assistive listening systems/devices and sensory aids will be checked prior to the assessment.

Documentation

Documentation contains identifying and pertinent background information, communication modality used, type of amplification system/sensory aid used assessment results, prognosis and specific recommendations.

Recommendations may address the need for further assessment, follow-up or referral.

When therapy is recommended, information should be provided concerning the frequency, estimated duration, and type and cost of service (e.g. individual, group, home program) required.

Where appropriate a written report could be provided to the client and other professionals.

Related References

- J.G Alpiner and P.A. Mc Carthy (2000) *Rehabilitative Audiology: Children and Adults*, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, (3rd Edition)
- Katz J (2001) Ed, *Handbook of Clinical Audiology, Section 4 Management of Auditory Problems*, Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore, (4th Edition)