
For Better COMMUNICATION

PLANNING and PREPARING for your HOSPITAL STAY

Items to ask for:

- Amplified, captioned telephone or other relay-capable phone
- Captions on the television, operable with remote
- Display Hearing Loss identification symbol for patient room door and/or for above the bed (included in kit)
- Caption education videos
- Personal amplifying device

Items to take:

- A small night light / flashlight
- A supply of Communication Tip cards – to pass out (included in kit)
- Your “Please Face Me...” button to pin on your pillow or gown (included in kit)
- Extra hearing aid batteries
- Your personal communication equipment – well marked with your name – if you don’t want to use the hospitals
- A storage container for your hearing aid(s) – well marked with your name
- Pen and Paper
- Hearing Loss Stickers (included in kit)

Your RESPONSIBILITIES

- Promise you won’t bluff. Ask in writing anything not clearly understood
- Discuss your hearing loss at your pre-admission hospital visit
- Discuss your preferred means of communication
- Inform your doctor, surgeon and your anesthesiologist of your hearing loss
- Inform hospital personnel of the items you have brought to alert your care givers of your hearing loss
- Suggest a prominent note be put on your records as to how best to communicate with you.
- Ask to have instructions *before* staff put on masks
- Inquire about medications that may affect your hearing
- Inquire about facility policy regarding removal of hearing aids during surgery. If removed, suggest they be put in a plastic bag (or white zippered pouch provided in your hospital kit) attached to your medical records or pinned to your gown, include a safety pin with bags.
- Be aware that some medical equipment may affect your hearing aids and/or equipment
- Teach nurses how to wake you when you’re not wearing hearing aids or cochlear implant

As a Hard of Hearing Patient

STEPS to USE in the WAITING ROOM

- Tell the receptionist your name and explain that you may or may not hear your name when called
- Explain that you are hard of hearing and what that means to you and your health care provider
- Ask staff to approach you when requiring your attention
- Ask how to have “Hard of Hearing” shown prominently on all your medical records
- Express your appreciation for the attention you have received

Hearing Loss Association of America is a volunteer international organization of people who cannot hear well. Its mission is to be the catalyst that makes mainstream society more accessible to people who are hard of hearing through education, advocacy and self help



**Hearing Loss
Association
of America**