

Aphasia United Best Practice Recommendations for Aphasia

- **People with aphasia** may find these recommendations **useful**. They outline what they have a **right to expect from treatment**.
- **Aphasia United** is an **international aphasia organisation**.
- **Our 10 best practice recommendations** outline the **ideal treatment** of **people with aphasia**, their **families** and **caregivers**.
- These recommendations are **aimed** at **health professionals** across the world.

Each recommendation has a rating:

A Very strong evidence supporting

B Strong evidence supporting

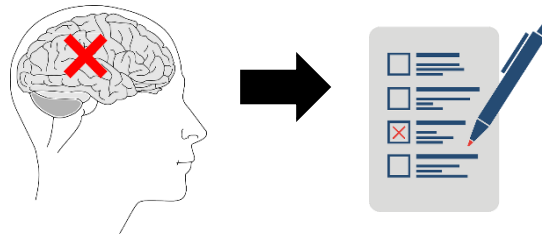
C Some evidence supporting

D A little evidence supporting

GPP Good Practice Point: **Not much evidence** but most **health professionals** agree this **should** be done

Assessment and diagnosis

- 1 **All** patients with **stroke** or progressive brain disease should be **screened for communication problems**. Screening involves a **short test** to see if there are any problems. **C**



- 2 People with **suspected aphasia** from screening should be fully assessed by a **qualified professional**. This assessment should determine what **type of aphasia** they have, how **severe** it is and how it will **affect their lives**. **B**



Treatment

- 3 People with aphasia should **receive information** about aphasia, stroke and therapy options **throughout their treatment.** A



- 4 No one with aphasia should be **discharged** from services **without** some **means of communicating** his or her needs and wishes or a documented plan for how and when this will be achieved. GPP



Example: AAC



Communication Book

5

People with aphasia should **all be offered treatment**, and this treatment should **continue as long as needed**.

A

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People with aphasia should be offered **treatment** which is-

- **individualized** - There are many types of treatments to choose from.

These should be chosen based on the **individual** and their **aphasia**.

- **intensive** – therapy should be **frequent**.



- designed to have a **meaningful impact** on the person's **communication** and **everyday life**.



- under the supervision of a **qualified professional**.

Support for family and caregivers

- 6 **Communication partner training** should be **provided** to improve communication of the person with aphasia. A



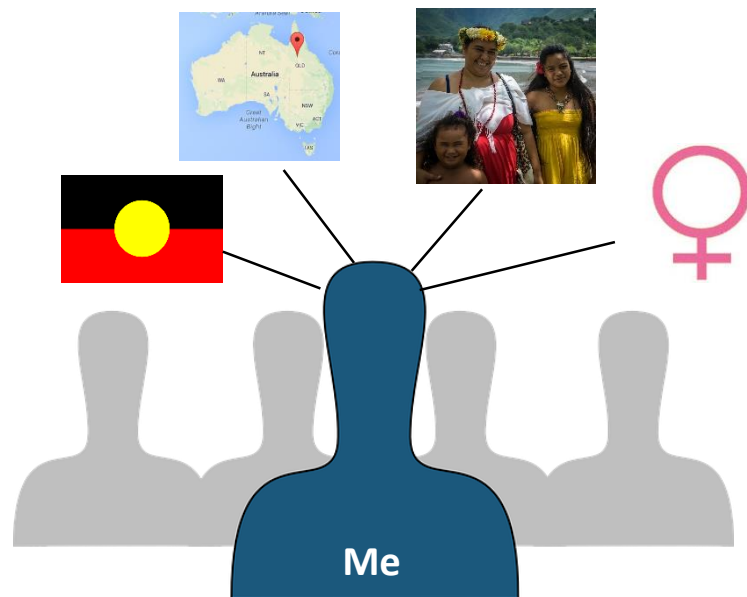
- 7 **Families or caregivers** of people with aphasia should be **included** in the rehabilitation process. They should **receive education and support** regarding the causes and consequences of aphasia and **learn to communicate** with the person with aphasia. A



People with aphasia in the community

- 8 Services for people with aphasia should be **culturally appropriate** and **personally relevant**. The person should feel that their **personal circumstances** and **preferences** are **respected** and **included** in treatment.

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- 9 All health and social care providers working with people with aphasia should be **educated about aphasia** and trained to support communication in aphasia. **C**



Information intended for **people with aphasia** should be available in **aphasia-friendly / communicatively accessible formats.** 

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