



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

UNDERSTANDING THE DISEASE SYMPOSIUM
Saturday, April 30, 2022

Communication Supports
for People with Parkinson's and their Families

Presenter: Audrey Hall, SLP
OSU Assistive Technology Center



Outline

I. Background information

Communication challenges in Parkinson's Disease

II. Strategies for supporting communication

No-tech strategies

Low-tech strategies

Hybrid strategies

High-tech tools

III. Tools for communication planning

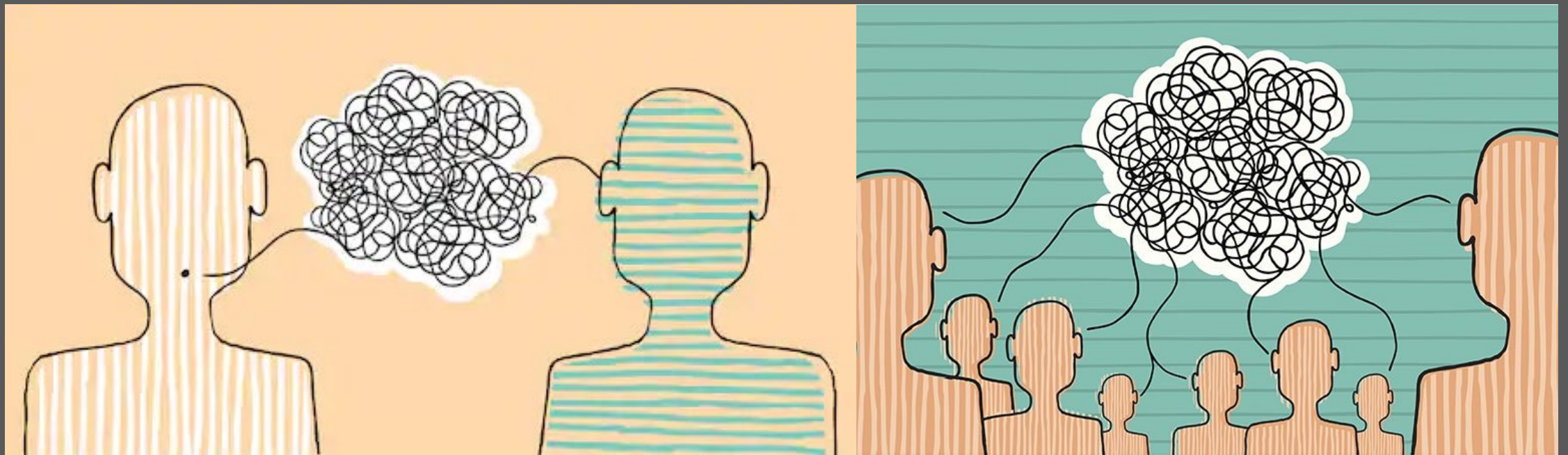
Driving registry

Emergency signaling

ID cards, bracelets, seat belts, apps

My Health Passport

Individuals with Parkinson's Disease may need to rely on **environmental adaptations, compensatory strategies and tools, and communication partner support** in order to understand what is said and/or convey their ideas.



Poll Question

Communication challenges in Parkinson's



- **Speech characteristics:** quiet or breathy voice (89% of cases), rapid rate, difficulty enunciating (45% of cases), mumbling/stuttering
- People with PD may have limited awareness of their speech difficulty and shouldn't be expected to "fix it" themselves
- May have trouble expressing emotion nonverbally due to "masked" expression
- May have trouble getting started on tasks, remembering tasks, or finding the motivation to communicate
- Tremor and gait problems may affect their ability to write, use their personal devices, gesture, and/or get things done without help

Key things to remember:

We don't communicate all by ourselves — instead, **we make meaning together**

Sometimes the task of carrying on the conversation will fall more on one person than another

You and your loved ones are a **communication team!**





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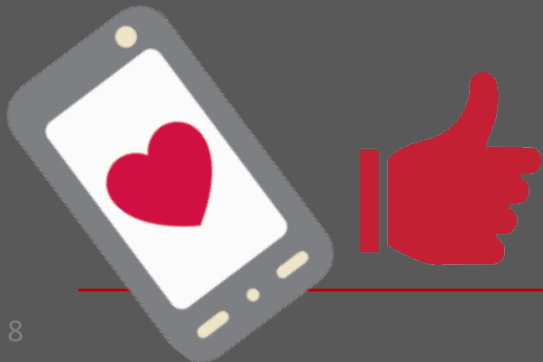
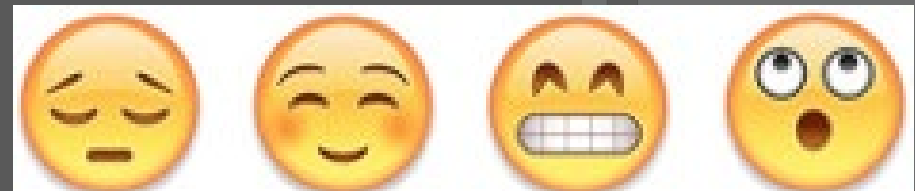
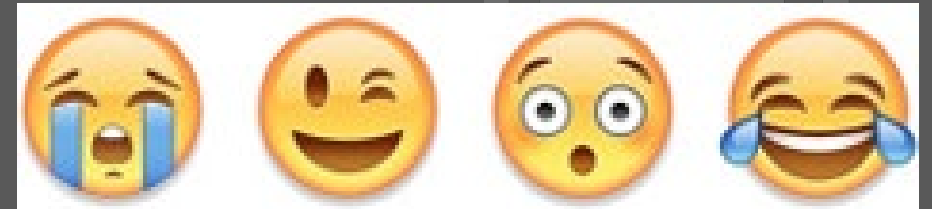
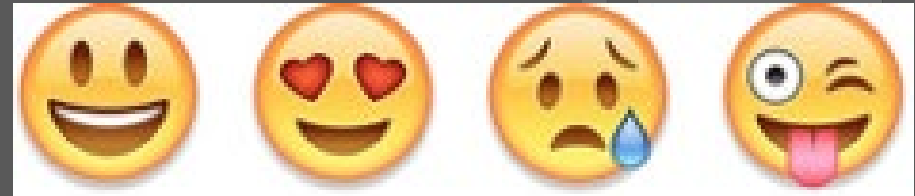
My Health Passport

What is Augmentative & Alternative Communication (AAC)?

Any form of communication other than verbal speech that is used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas

Everyone uses AAC on a daily basis!

- **Nonverbals** - eye contact, posture, facial expressions, gestures
- **Handwriting** - notes, letters, drawings
- **Technology** - texting, email, social media



Augmentative communication strategies

No-tech strategies



Setting up the environment



Using gestures and body language



Adjusting your talking



Checking for comprehension

Augmentative communication strategies

Low-tech strategies



Writing and drawing



Communication boards



Partner-assisted scanning



yes



no



not sure

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10



good



uncomfortable



pain

Augmentative communication strategies

Communication boards

A	B	C	D	SPACE	END OF MESSAGE
E	F	G	H	START OVER	I DON'T KNOW
I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Qu	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z


family	friends	feelings	schedule
home	health	hobbies	money
food	medication	TV	transportation
clothing	therapy	sports	current events
weather	work	the past	the future


GP30

Greenhouse Publications


Health Care Communication Board

For Medical, Physical and Emotional Information

TOUCH FOR "NO"

NO
 No = eyes closed

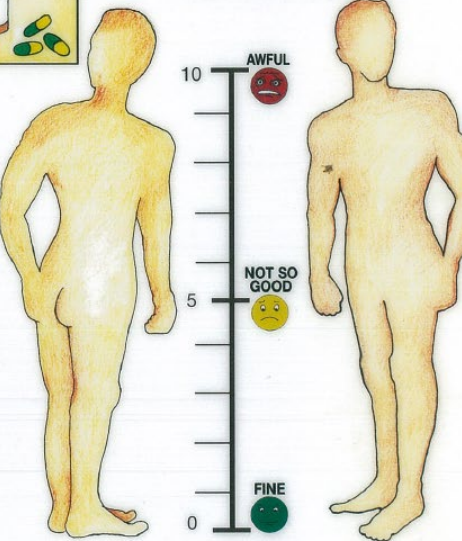
TOUCH FOR "YES"

YES
 Yes = eyes wide open

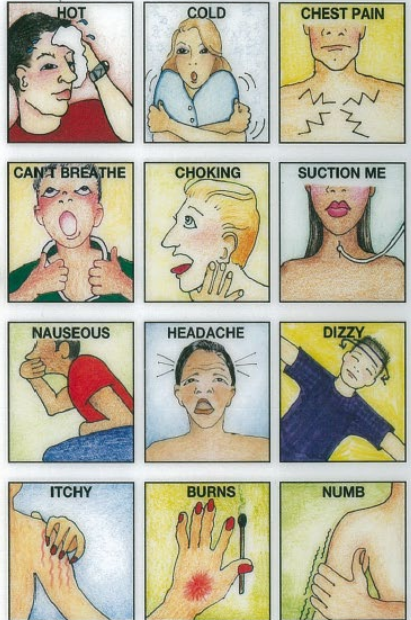
INSTRUCTIONS: Have patient touch pictures to request wants and needs. If unable, caregiver touches pictures and gets yes/no response from patient.
 Yes = thumbs up, nod, or eyes wide open;
 No = thumbs down, nod or eyes closed.



Pain Scale

Touch Where It Hurts





Augmentative communication strategies

Partner-assisted scanning: Two ways!

No-tech:



NO-TECH

- When presenting two options, hold up both hands on either side of the person and have them look toward the one they want
- You can add a third option by pointing to your nose, so you're presenting *hand -> nose -> hand*
- *Example:*
"Do you want to watch TV (*R hand*)? Listen to your audiobook (*L hand*)? Or neither (*point to nose*)?"

Low-tech:



LOW-TECH

- When scanning through a variety of options (>3), read the options aloud while pointing to each one
- Your loved one will make a gesture or sound when they hear the option they want

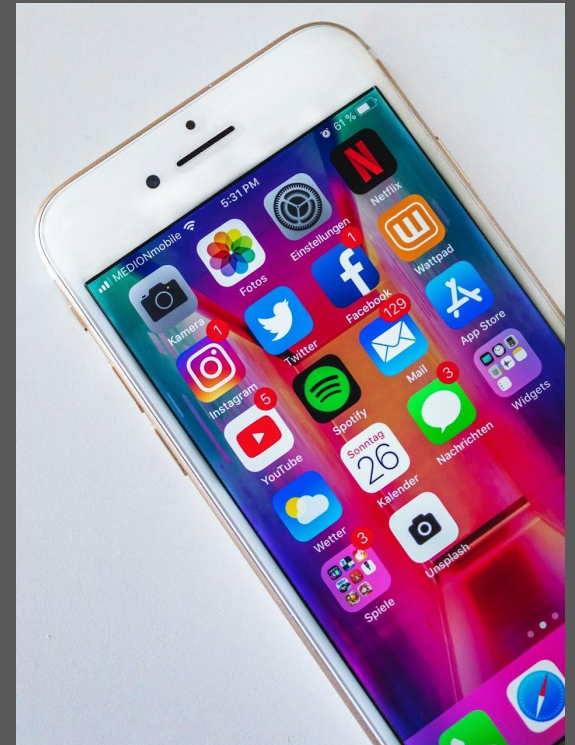
Augmentative communication tools

Your electronics

Use **everyday technology** to enhance your communication and/or repair communication breakdowns

Examples of useful built-in tools:

- **Contacts** - family names, emergency contact
- **Calendar** - birthday, date of incident
- **Photos** - family members, common environments
- **Calculator** - # of children, # of stairs in house
- **Maps** - address, preferred pharmacy
- **Social media** - personal experiences, opinions
- **Google Images** - visual aids galore!



Augmentative communication tools

Speech-generating devices

High-tech AAC = tablet- or computer-based communication aids containing folders of person-specific words and sentences

Can type to speak or use symbols or pictures

Requires a visit with an AAC specialist (that's me!)





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My Health Passport



Register your communication disability

Ohio | Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities



Do You Have a Communication Disability?

If you have a diagnosed communication disability, you can voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). Through this data system, law enforcement is made aware that the driver, or a person in the vehicle, may have difficulty communicating with an officer.

Frequently Asked Questions

• Am I required to identify as a person with a communication disability?

No, identification is voluntary.

• How will law enforcement know I have a communication disability?

If pulled over, police officers will be alerted through LEADS that you have a communication disability when they enter the license plate number into their system.

• Will police officers know what type of communication disability I have?

No. Due to confidentiality, police officers will not have that information. They will only know that the registered person, or someone who frequently travels in the vehicle, has a communication disability.

Adding yourself to the state database can help you prevent misunderstandings and stay safe during traffic stops.

• Do I have to disclose personal medical information in order to identify as someone with a communication disability?

No, you do not have to disclose personal medical information. However, a licensed practitioner must sign the Communication Disability Verification Form to verify that you have a diagnosed condition.



• How do I identify as a person with a communication disability?

You may download the Verification Form from the OOD website by visiting ood.ohio.gov, click on the Information tab, then click on the Communication Disability Law tab to find the Verification Form. Applicants may mail a completed form to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles/ Vehicle Information Services, P.O. Box 16521, Columbus, Ohio 43216-6521, or scan and email to VIS-Administration@dps.ohio.gov, or deliver to any Deputy Registrar.

• How will I know that my communication disability form has been received?

You will receive a confirmation receipt sent to the email address you provided on the form.

For additional questions, please contact:

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
150 E. Campus View Blvd., Suite 300
Contact Phone: 614-438-1203
www.ood.ohio.gov/Information/Communication-Disability-Law

Follow us @OhioOOD





Plan for emergencies



Call your local fire or EMT department TODAY and let them know that someone with a communication disability lives at your address.

Keep your medical information posted on the fridge – that is where they will look first!





Use ID cards, bracelets, seatbelts, apps



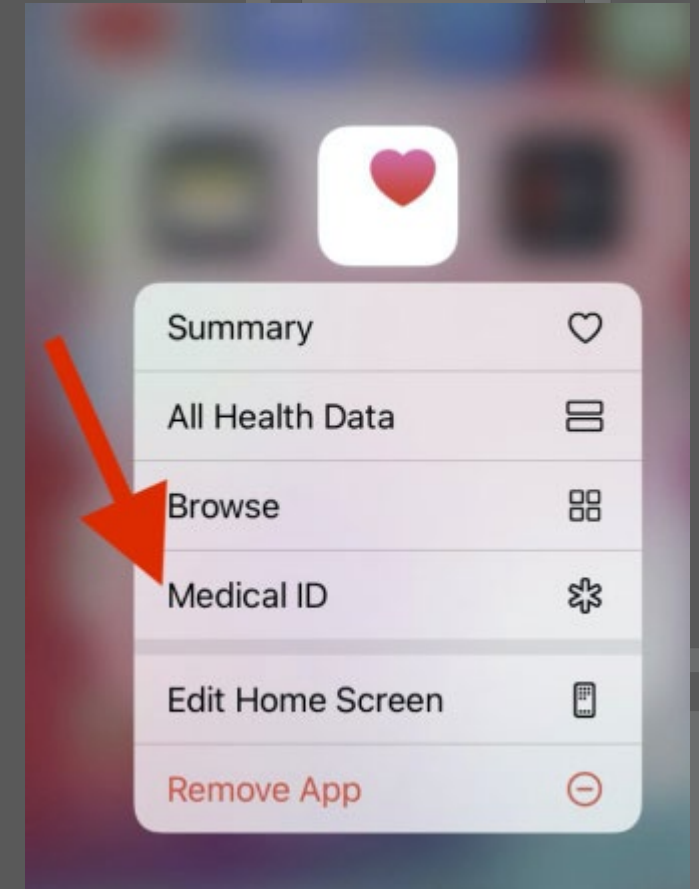
www.You-ID.me

EMERGENCY MEDICAL ID

parkinson's

Please visit: www.You-ID.me
Enter my unique ID: a123456b10id

See my emergency details on reverse





Plan ahead for hospital stays

H
My Health
Passport
H

!
If you are a health care professional who will be helping me,
PLEASE READ THIS
before you try to help me with my care or treatment.
!

My full name is: _____

I like to be called: _____

Date of birth: ____ / ____ / ____

My primary care physician: _____

Physician's phone number: _____

Attach
your
picture
here!

This passport has important information so you can better support me when I visit/stay in your hospital or clinic.

Please keep this with my other notes, and where it may be easily referenced.

DNR ORDER FORM

A printed copy of this order form or other authorized DNR identification must accompany the patient during transports and transfers between facilities.

Patient Name:	Patient Birth Date:
Optional Patient or Authorized Representatives Signature	
Printed name of Physician, APRN or PA*	Date
REQUIRED Signature of Physician, APRN or PA	Phone
REQUIRED for APRN or PA: Name of the supervising physician (PA) or collaborating physician (APRN) for this patient and the physician's NPI, DEA or Ohio medical license number.	

CHECK ONLY ONE BOX BELOW

DNR Comfort Care — Arrest: Providers will treat patient as any other without a DNR order until the point of cardiac or respiratory arrest at which point all interventions will cease and the DNR Comfort Care protocol will be implemented.

DNR Comfort Care: The following DNR protocol is effective immediately.

Ask for a referral

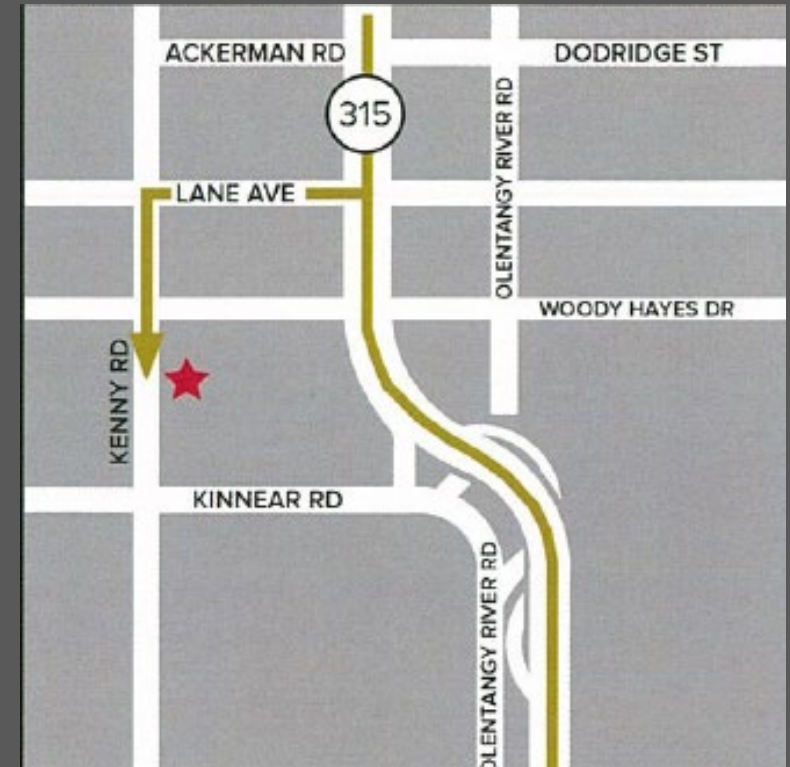
Come say (or sign, or type, or wave) hello!



Ask your doctor, PT, OT, or SLP for a referral to the OSUWMC AAC Clinic!

To Make a Referral

- Fax the following referral information to 614-293-9002:
- Physician referral for speech therapy/AAC listing diagnosis
- Most recent office notes, including any medication lists



P.S. I'm right next door to the Smart Clinic. 😊

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