



Deaf Strong Hospital

The Deaf Community and
Healthcare

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- My experience
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Experiences

- Past Experiences
 - Tonsillectomy
 - Birth control pills
- Current Experiences
 - Folsom Center
 - Parkwest Women's Health
 - Strong Hospital

Cultural Model vs. Medical Model

- Cultural Model
 - Acceptance of ASL as a language and use it daily
 - Indicated as capitalized “D”
 - Embraces the values, mores and ways of the Deaf
 - Is viewed as a language minority (such as those who speak Spanish)
- Medical Model
 - Broken/fix it principle
 - Rejection of ASL as a language
 - Indicated as a lowercase “d”
 - Deafness is viewed as a disability
 - “Hearing Impaired” is a term often used

Right or Wrong?

- Is there such a thing as Deaf culture?
 - Language: ASL
 - Arts: Deaf artists, playwrights, literature
 - Shared experiences of members unique to culture
- Speech
 - Many D/deaf people were taught how to speak.
- Cochlear Implant Controversy
 - Many deaf people have the cochlear implant.

Communication

- ASL
- Sign Exact English
- Oral
- Cued Speech

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

- Title III
 - Healthcare providers
 - Communication must be effective
 - Use of qualified interpreters
 - Payment is made by the institution or provider, NOT by the patient

Some advice regarding to the ADA

- Interpreter Access
- Staff education and attitudes
- Written material access
- Technological assistance (ALDs, pagers)
- Relay services
- Speech reading tips
- Time and patience

Benefits

- Increased quality of care
- Better use of resources
- Reduced legal risk
- Rochester has the largest Deaf population per capita in the U.S.

Why is this important to you as a future MD?

- Doctors diagnose hearing losses
- It is important to understand all aspects of deafness, both culturally and medically
- Gives parents opportunities to choose what they want for their deaf child; choice is power
- Understanding deafness gives power to deaf individuals when in the office with you to make informed decisions about their treatment; results in improved teamwork and better care

Resources for you

- D/deaf, hard of hearing doctors
 - Michael McKee, MD (Folsom Center)
 - Carolyn Stern, MD (www.deafdoc.org)
 - Chris Lehfeltdt, DDS (Dentist,)
 - Scott Smith, MD (Pediatric Neurologist, RGH)
- Doctors who can sign
 - Karen Duguid, MD (Ob/Gyn. Parkwest)
 - Timothy Malia, MD (Family Practice)
 - Steve Barnett, MD (Family Practice)
- National Center for Deaf Health Research
 - <http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ncdhr/>

Other Resources

- The Internet
- Blogs/Vlogs
 - www.deafread.com
- Books
 - National Association for the Deaf (2000). *Legal Rights: The guide for deaf and hard of hearing people* (5th ed.). Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.
- Deaf Organizations:
 - Rochester Recreation Club for the Deaf (www.rochesterdeafclub.com)
 - Deaf Digest (www.deafdigest.com)
 - Deaf Rochester News (www.deafrochester.com)
 - DeafTimes (www.deaftimes.com)
 - National Association for the Deaf (www.nad.org)

Questions/Comments?

What matters deafness of the ear, when the mind hears? The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind.

- Victor Hugo