

Understanding Deaf or Hard-Of-Hearing Barriers in Dentistry by Amanda Zubricki, RDH, BS

Hearing loss is an invisible disability

Deafness IS A SPECTRUM

Hearing loss terms/Identity

- Deaf-upper case (D)
 - Culturally Deaf, uses ASL, may not wear hearing devices
- deaf-Lower case (d)
 - Somewhere in the gray area of Deaf or hard of hearing, may be oral and/or use ASL
- Hard of hearing
 - May have the description of deaf but consider themselves HH, may have lost their hearing later in life

(Never use 'Hearing Impaired') all else fails, use the term DEAF

Audism: Discrimination against a deaf person

Americans with Disabilities Act

- Signed into law July 26, 1990
- Equal opportunity law that protects people with disabilities

Clear masks

- Safe-n-Clear (<https://safenclear.com/>)
- Clear Mask (<https://www.theclearmask.com/>)
- Guidelines: "Under Title II & Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the U.S., entities are required to provide effective accommodations upon request, including auxiliary aids."

Interpreters (where to find)

- Contact your state and seek referrals
- Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf inc has a database
- Local chapter of the National Association for the Deaf
- From the person requesting an interpreter
- go.jeenie.com
 - You cannot charge the person for an interpreter, small businesses can get tax credit
- Guidelines: **This is covered under the Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you feel that you need an interpreter in order to understand what your doctor/health care provider is telling you, then the doctor/health care provider is required to provide you with one.**

That Deaf RDH, inc: A nonprofit 501c3 providing scholarship awards to deaf or hard of hearing dental hygiene students with a mission to break down barriers (www.thatdeafrdh.org)