

Speech and Language Therapy

Dysarthria (Aphasia-friendly version)

Dysarthria is caused by **injury** to the **brain**.

The injury weakens **muscles** used in **speech**.

- Speech can sound **slurred**
- Speech can be **quiet**
- People may not understand you
- Dysarthria does **not affect intelligence**

Speech and Language Therapy can **help**.

A therapist will:

- **Identify** areas of **muscle weakness**
- Provide **activities** to improve your speech
- Explore **strategies** to help
- Give **advice** and **support**



Patient Information

- You will work **together**

A therapist may see you:

- In **hospital**
- Or at **home**

Friends and family can help:

- Be **patient**, give the person extra time to express themselves
- **Repeat** to check you understand correctly
- Ask questions that need a **yes or no answer**

Strategies to help communication:

- **Reduce** background noise
- Speak **louder**
- Speak **slowly**
- **Over-exaggerate** the words
- Use **actions**
- **Draw**
- **Write** important words
- Use **facial expression**

More information

<https://www.stroke.org.uk/resources>

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dysarthria/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

You can also contact the Speech and Language Therapy team on 024 7696 5709.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5709 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Speech and Language Therapy
Contact:	265709
Updated:	May 2022
Review:	May 2024
Version:	1.2
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2182/17