



# A Vital Member of Your Long-Term Care Team

**Speech-language pathology and audiology are an important part of safe and reliable long-term care.**

**Speech-language pathology and audiology services should be available in all long-term care homes.**

- About 75% of residents have communication disorders, resulting from stroke, dementia, Parkinson's disease and other neurological conditions.
- The majority of residents have hearing loss which often co-occurs with other sensory impairments (e.g., vision, balance).
- Over half of residents in long-term care have swallowing difficulties.

Speech-language pathologists (S-LPs) and audiologists work with their fellow long-term care team members to improve quality of life for residents.

S-LPs address communication and swallowing needs.

Audiologists address hearing and balance difficulties.

S-LPs and audiologists may be supported by communication health assistants.

**S-LPs, audiologists and communication health assistants use evidence-informed interventions to help create a resident-and-family centred environment by:**

- Promoting effective resident-staff communication
- Enabling residents to communicate, participate and live as independently as possible
- Ensuring accurate evaluation of swallowing needs as well as safe and enjoyable meal times
- Addressing responsive behaviours in people with dementia
- Reducing caregiver stress



## SAC

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Communicating care

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**Ensure S-LPs, audiologists and communication health assistants are part of your long-term care team.**