

# APHASIA

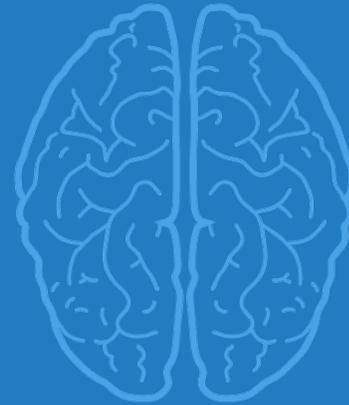
## Loss of language

### WHAT IS IT?

Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder caused by damage to the areas of the brain that contain language. There are several different types of aphasia classified by patterns of impaired language abilities with varying severity. Aphasia can cause difficulties in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing, but intelligence is typically NOT affected. Individuals with aphasia may also have other problems, such as facial and/or body muscular weakness and swallowing difficulties.

### WHAT CAUSES IT?

Aphasia is typically caused by stroke, but may also be the result of a traumatic brain injury, a brain tumor, or a progressive neurological disorder.



### SYMPTOMS

- Choppy/non-fluent speech
- Word-finding difficulty
- Sound and/or word substitutions
- Fluent, but 'empty' or meaningless speech
- Difficulty understanding spoken and/or written language

### SPEECH THERAPY IS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO REHABILITATE INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY APHASIA.

- A speech-language pathologist will provide treatment to target specific language deficits and/or communication goals appropriate for the individual client.
- Aphasia therapy focuses on implementing compensatory word retrieval strategies to promote functional communication.
- When expressive communication is severely diminished, alternate means of communication—gestures, picture boards or computer devices—are targeted.

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Speech therapy can help individuals with aphasia regain the ability to communicate with others.

- The National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke estimates that approximately **one million individuals** suffer from aphasia in the United States.
- Almost **180,000** individuals acquire aphasia each year.

Resources: [asha.org](http://asha.org)  
[aphasia.org](http://aphasia.org)



When your ability to speak or to understand others is affected, or if you have trouble swallowing, the Speech Language Pathology department at all three Bon Secours sites can help. Our speech/language pathologists evaluate and treat disorders which may have resulted from surgery, facial injury, stroke, head injury or a developmental disability, just to name a few. Such problems can affect people from infancy to the elderly. After a thorough evaluation, sessions are designed to improve the targeted areas and promote more effective communication, where comprehension skills are as important to expression. If necessary, speech language pathologists and radiologists will work together to perform special swallowing studies to aid in further evaluation of your deficits. Other specialty services within this department include pediatric developmental delays, Parkinson's BIG program, vital stimulation, and voice/music therapy.

## See how a Speech-Language Pathologist can help!

Bon Secours Community Hospital  
160 E Main St, 1st Fl, Port Jervis

**(845) 858-7112**

St. Anthony Community Hospital  
Center for Physical Rehabilitation  
153 State Route 94 S, Warwick

**(845) 987-5150**

Good Samaritan Hospital  
25 Lafayette Ave, Suffern

**(845) 368-5253**

Rehabilitation at Bon Secours Charity Health System a Member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network: Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy; Lymphedema & Oncological Program (Rehabilitation services are provided by Access Physical Therapy & Wellness)

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