Enhancing AAC for Adults

INTRODUCTION

People with severe communication disorders often benefit from the use of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). As technology has advanced and people have become more comfortable using a wide variety of programs, patient expectations about how AAC systems look and feel have also increased. In addition, programs and tools that are used daily, such as Facebook and Twitter, provide alternative communication options for people who have difficulty with face-to-face interactions. This journal self-study explores preferences about topics and types of visual supports as well as information about how people who use AAC can expand their communication using social media. Clinicians working with adults who use AAC can apply this information to improve decisions about methods and types of communication supports and maximize patient success.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
You will be able to:
- discuss the benefits and drawbacks of different types of visual supports used in AAC systems
- explain why traditional AAC vocabulary selection techniques may not meet the needs of adult AAC users
- describe the topics that adult AAC users prefer to be able to discuss
- explain AAC use in people with ALS and how social media use may benefit them

CONTENTS

Supporting Narrative Retells for People With Aphasia Using Augmentative and Alternative Communication: Photographs or Line Drawings? Text or No Text? by Julie Griffith, Aimee Dietz, and Kristy Weissling .......................................................... CE-1


“My World Has Expanded Even Though I'm Stuck at Home”: Experiences of Individuals With Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Who Use Augmentative and Alternative Communication and Social Media, by Jessica Caron and Janice Light........................................................................................................ CE-22
PROGRAM HISTORY and IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Articles originally published in *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*

**Original start date:** January 26, 2017  
**Peer reviewed:** June 30, 2017  
**End date:** June 30, 2022

To earn continuing education credit, you must complete the test with a passing score on or before **June 30, 2022**.

This course is offered for **0.3 ASHA CEUs** (Intermediate level, Professional area).