



Boston Children's Hospital

Until every child is well™

Guidelines for Communication Partners

(Identified by young adults and adults who are losing ability to speak)

No rule fits everyone BUT these are some points to consider putting into practice.

THANK YOU for the generous guidance from so many of our ACP patients!

1. Don't talk louder just because I can't talk

2. Don't talk over me as I try to communicate. My speech is compromised and it takes too much energy to continue to try to get my message across while you interrupt/over ride me.

3. Don't interrupt – PLEASE let me finish my thought, otherwise it sends the message that you don't value what I have to say.

4. Recognize that when an efficiency strategy is used by someone with compromised speech (using fewer words or speaking in a direct manner) it should not be confused with a lack of sophisticated linguistic competence or social skill.

5. If you didn't call me 'dear', 'honey', or other terms of endearment before my disease, don't change the way you talk with me now unless we have recently developed a more intimate relationship

6. Don't touch me (move my arm, etc.) or my chair without letting me know you are going to and requesting permission.

7. I know you are trying to be efficient or save me from fatigue by speaking FOR me, but please ask my permission before sharing information related to me.

8. Even though you may know the requested information ALWAYS ask me if I want you to speak for me so everyone in the conversation is clear that I am in charge

*Oh, I'm sorry...
Did the middle of my
sentence interrupt the
beginning of yours?*

