

FAST FACTS

Here are some facts about the Deaf Community and how we as Athletic Trainers can continue to give inclusive care!

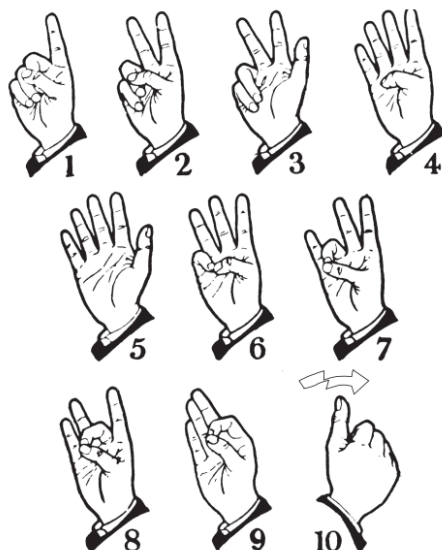
1. It is vital that we use inclusive language when working with our patients. These info graphs show how important language is when working with diverse patients. Thank you to @AssocATEdu for sharing this graphic!



2. American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary language used in the Deaf Community in America. Here are some key phrases in ASL that we as ATCs can use in the athletic training facility or clinic to insure all of our patients and athletes receive equitable care!

[ASL for the Medical Professional - Best Practices in Caring for the Deaf Patient - Research Guides](#)
[BASIC MEDICAL SIGN LANGUAGE](#)

NUMBERS (1 - 10)

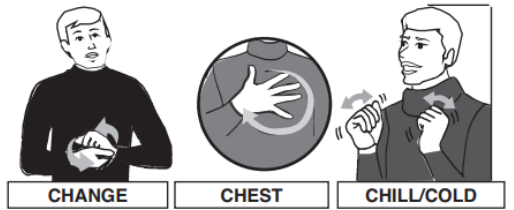
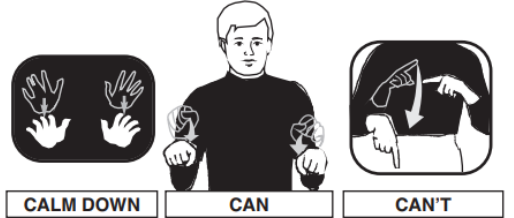
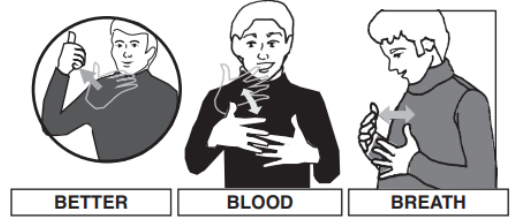
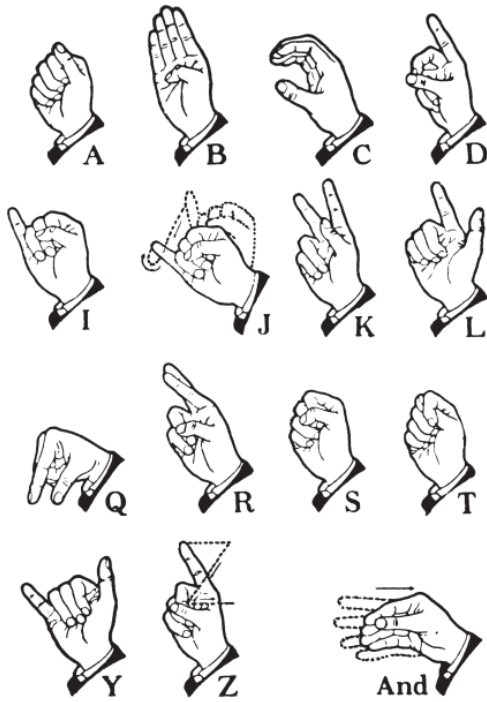


COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

When communicating with a deaf or hard of hearing person:

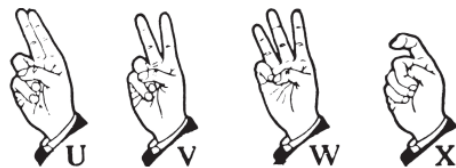
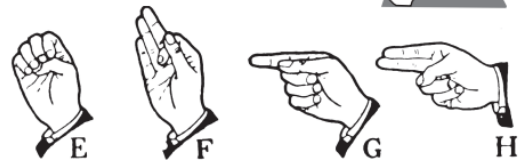
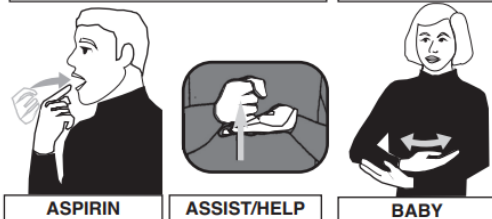
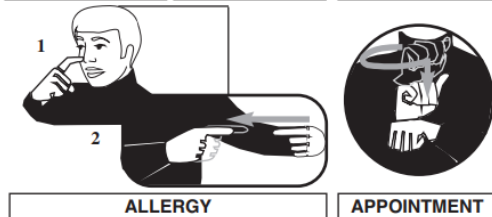
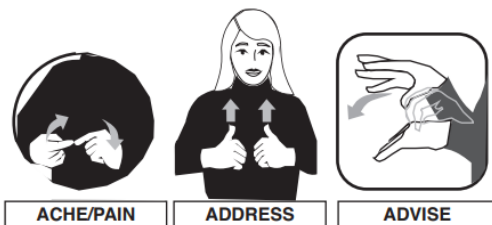
- Get the deaf or hard of hearing person's attention first (tap gently on the shoulder or wave your hand).
- Establish eye contact with the deaf or hard of hearing person.
- Sign the manual alphabet to fingerspell names and other key words for which there are no signs listed in this brochure.
- Use natural facial expressions, gestures, and pantomime (e.g., negative words accompanied by shaking of the head).
- Speak directly to the deaf or hard of hearing person at a moderate pace while signing.
- Make sure your mouth can be seen.
- Rephrase the sentence if you are not understood.
- When all else fails, write it down or draw a picture.
- Most importantly, remember that patience is a language we can all understand.

MANUAL ALPHABET



BASIC MEDICAL SIGN LANGUAGE

(WHEN SPELLING, ARM IS IN, NEAR CHEST, WRIST IS STEADY, AND USUALLY ONLY FINGERS MOVING)



3. In 2015, a study was conducted on the preferred communication method between deaf athletes and their athletic trainers. Of the deaf and hard of hearing athletes, the deaf athletes preferred to use ASL with their ATC and teammates where hard of hearing athletes preferred oral communication. This study also showed the difference between satisfaction of communication with the ATC among males and females. More male athletes rated their communication with their ATC as “excellent” when compared to females, who predominately answered “good”. [Communication Patterns Among Athletes Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing and Athletic Trainers: A Pilot Study \(healio.com\)](#)