



## Sensory disorders

### Oral communications

CO22-001-e

#### Sensory disorders

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**Keywords:** Sensory deficiency; Deafblind; Deafness; Visual impairment; Rehabilitation

Sensory deficiencies (ICF chapter 2) are common. Whether congenital or acquired, they are often combined with other locomotor, cognitive impairments or additional sensory disabilities. In the latter case, such as deaf blindness (estimated prevalence at 15/100, 000; elderly 45%), there is a high demand for rehabilitation because unisensory approach using compensation by the other sense cannot be used. Sensory impairments deeply affect communication, socialization and autonomy of the affected person. The aims of this session are:

- to meet, at the European level, the rehabilitation specialists who are involved in sensory impairments;
- to inform the PMR professionals and the interested public about the state of art, through a panel discussion moderated by these specialists;
- to develop guidelines for care: screening, medical and surgical treatment, education and rehabilitation, human and technological compensation, social participation;
- to review current research and its future directions;
- to gather and build synergies between existing collaborative and innovative resources: network management, education, scientific societies, policies in favour of these deficiencies.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2014.03.1322>

CO22-002-e

#### Communication difficulties of deaf and deafblind people related to language barriers: Impact on access to care

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**Keywords:** Sensory deficiency; Deafblind; Deafness; Visual impairment; Rehabilitation

The University Hospital of Rennes (Brittany, France) has a care unit for deaf people who communicate in sign language since April 2003. Fourteen units of this type exist in France. They help improve the care of deaf patients and deaf visually impaired patients, taking into account the patient's language and his specific modes of communications. The Rennes Unit is composed of a multidisciplinary team of bilingual professionals, who use health (French/sign language) and mixed (deaf/hearing). In addition to this specific activity that fulfils specific

missions (medical consultations, psychological and social help, sign language and tactile sign language). It is devoted to serve as a team resource and/or relay -level for the hospital of Rennes CHU Rennes along with the whole region. Following the finding of lack of information and training in the field of deaf-blindness, our unit has established links with partners in the region and the National Resource Centre (CRESAM) and has created a specific training: THE "Referrers in deafblindness" allowing taking into account the needs of deafblind persons in their daily lives, beyond the issue of communication.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2014.03.1323>

CO22-003-e

#### Rehabilitation for visual impaired persons

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**Keywords:** Sensory deficiency; Visual impairment; Rehabilitation

Visual impairment affects 2 million people in France (60% over 60 years). This number will grow exponentially with aging. Its consequences are well together on the field of disability and dependency. However, the major and highly polymorphic role of vision (which provides us with the majority of sensory information required for interaction with our environment), visual impairment and its consequences remain largely unknown. However, as in other organ damage, it is possible to limit the impact of visual impairment by appropriate rehabilitative care within specialized multidisciplinary teams. As a result of our experience in the care of these people, for the establishment and management for nearly 10 years, two SAMSAH specialized in visual impairment and implementation of a website solely dedicated to it, today we want to share to reflect together on solutions. These SAMSAH must allow a comprehensive and graduated care, from simple expert advice to a multidisciplinary approach. Our approach is based on a strong link with the patients' physicians, ophthalmologists as well as general practitioners. These professionals have to become aware that many diseases are still responsible for severe visual impairment, despite real therapeutic progress.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2014.03.1324>

CO22-004-e

#### Building a model response network: Lighthouse West Association

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**Keywords:** Sensory deficiency; Deafblind; Deafness; Visual impairment

Professionals and parents of different services in the Western part of France decided in 2009 to work together in a militant way. They created a network called "Lighthouse West" to develop a shared culture and knowledge and share experiences on the topic of Deafblind, associating as much as possible those involved.