

# BREAKING BARRIERS: THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND NEUROGENIC COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. **Describe the various social determinants of health** that can impact individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, including factors such as access to healthcare, economic insecurity, discrimination and stigma, and environmental factors.
2. **Analyze the impact of social determinants of health** on the diagnosis, treatment, and overall health outcomes of individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, including factors such as delayed diagnosis, limited access to treatment, and reduced quality of care.
3. **Develop and propose evidence-based strategies and policies to address the social determinants of health** that can impact individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, including policies that improve access to healthcare, address economic insecurity, and promote environmental regulations.



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

This course explores the impact of social determinants of health on individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. Learners will gain an understanding of the various social determinants of health, including access to healthcare, economic insecurity, discrimination and stigma, and environmental factors. Learners will examine the impact of these factors on diagnosis, treatment, and overall health outcomes. Additionally, learners will develop strategies and policies to address the social determinants of health, including policies that improve access to healthcare, address economic insecurity, and promote environmental regulations. This session is designed for providers in communication disorders, healthcare, public health, and related fields who seek to gain a deeper understanding of the social determinants of health and their impact on individuals with neurogenic communication disorders.



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## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Neurogenic communication disorders, such as aphasia and dysarthria, are caused by damage to the nervous system, and can have a significant impact on a person's ability to communicate effectively. In addition to the direct effects of these disorders, individuals with neurogenic communication disorders may also face challenges related to social determinants of health (SDOH), which can exacerbate the negative impact of these disorders on their overall health outcomes.

This presentation explores the impact of SDOH on individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, including factors such as access to healthcare, economic insecurity, discrimination and stigma, and environmental factors. Using a combination of research studies, case studies, and personal stories, we will examine the ways in which SDOH can impact the diagnosis, treatment, and overall health outcomes of individuals with neurogenic communication disorders.

### ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare is a crucial factor in promoting health and preventing disease, and is particularly important for individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. However, many individuals with these disorders face barriers to accessing healthcare, such as lack of insurance coverage or inadequate healthcare infrastructure in their communities. This can result in delayed diagnosis, limited access to treatment, and reduced quality of care, which can have a significant negative impact on their health outcomes.

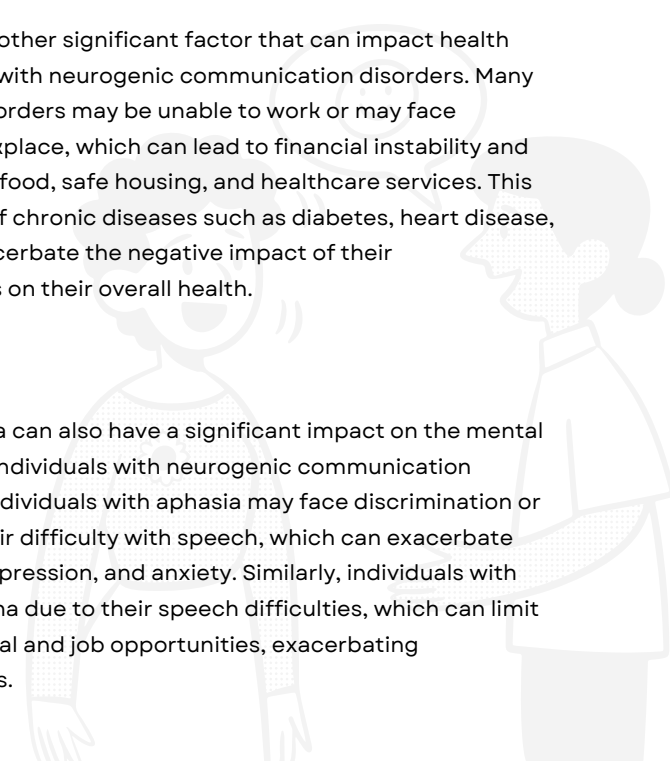
### ECONOMIC INSECURITY

Economic insecurity is another significant factor that can impact health outcomes for individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. Many individuals with these disorders may be unable to work or may face discrimination in the workplace, which can lead to financial instability and limited access to healthy food, safe housing, and healthcare services. This can lead to higher rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and asthma, and can exacerbate the negative impact of their communication disorders on their overall health.

### DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination and stigma can also have a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. For example, individuals with aphasia may face discrimination or social isolation due to their difficulty with speech, which can exacerbate feelings of frustration, depression, and anxiety. Similarly, individuals with dysarthria may face stigma due to their speech difficulties, which can limit their access to educational and job opportunities, exacerbating socioeconomic disparities.

**INDIVIDUALS WITH NEUROGENIC COMMUNICATION DISORDERS MAY FACE CHALLENGES RELATED TO SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH, WHICH CAN EXACERBATE THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THESE DISORDERS ON THEIR OVERALL HEALTH OUTCOMES.**



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## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH (CONT'D)

### ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

Finally, environmental factors such as exposure to pollution, climate change, and natural disasters can also affect the health of individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. For example, individuals with dysarthria or other speech difficulties may be unable to effectively communicate their needs during a natural disaster, making them more vulnerable to harm.

## ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES

To address these challenges, we will examine potential solutions that can help promote better health outcomes for individuals with neurogenic communication disorders. These solutions include:

- Policies that improve access to healthcare
- Addressing economic insecurity
- Promoting environmental regulations

For example, policies that expand insurance coverage, increase funding for healthcare infrastructure in underserved communities, and provide affordable housing and food assistance programs can all help promote better health outcomes for individuals with neurogenic communication disorders.

In conclusion, SDOH can have a significant impact on the health outcomes of individuals with neurogenic communication disorders, highlighting the need for policies and interventions that address these challenges. Improved access to healthcare, addressing economic insecurity, addressing discrimination and stigma, and implementing environmental regulations are all potential solutions that can help promote better health outcomes for individuals with neurogenic communication disorders.



SELECTED NOTES  
& REFERENCES