

6. M, Martinelli. (2021) Collaborative talk in healthcare interactions between students and people with aphasia. *International Journal of Language & Communication Disorders*. 1– 13. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1460-6984.12636>

*Background:* People with language impairments are at a higher risk of receiving inappropriate or inadequate healthcare, often stemming from ineffective exchanges between patients and healthcare professionals. This study explores a possible factor in such exchanges: the use of collaborative forms of talk in interaction with people with aphasia.

*Aims:* To investigate if and how collaborative forms of talk are used as a conversational resource in healthcare interactions by students and their effects on the acquisition of information from the patient.

*Methods & Procedures:* The transcripts of two simulated healthcare interactions between a man with aphasia and two students (i.e., a nursing student and a speech–language pathology student) were analysed through conversation analysis. The analysis aimed to locate instances of collaborative forms of talk, which included joint productions, acknowledgement tokens, reframing of questions, gesture, laughter and engagement with alternative communication methods. The analysis also tracked the progressivity of the interactions and information checking.

*Outcomes & Results:* The students engaged in a range of collaborative forms of talk, which aided the person with aphasia to participate more fully in conversation. However, some issues arose with progressivity, topic continuity and checking for understanding when turns were left incomplete, no candidate understandings were provided or no repair or joint production sequences were initiated. These occurrences may increase the possibility of misunderstandings or loss of important information.

*Conclusions & Implications:* Communication training should include conversational strategies that help to promote collaboration, focusing on enhancing the ability to perceive, and attend to collaboration requests. Training also should help trainees to find ways to frequently check understanding.