

Advocating for Yourself

ON AN IPP TEAM AS AN **AUDIOLOGIST**



TIP #1

IT'S OKAY TO PARTICIPATE ON AN IPP TEAM FOR A LIMITED TIME.

As an audiologist, participating on a team over a long timeline may not align with the types of services you provide. That's okay! It is totally acceptable to join an IPP team for a limited amount of time to address a specific need, such as an assessment to rule out hearing loss for a patient who is having memory issues. How will you know if your expertise is needed on a team? The answer is open communication. The IPP team should outline patient goals and identify potential challenges that the patient may encounter. This means that an audiologist can be brought in when the time is right.



TIP #2

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE HEARING LOSS PLAYS IN OTHER HEALTH CONDITIONS.

Even though audiologists work specifically with hearing and balance issues, it's important to know about other health conditions, too. Some conditions may increase someone's risk for developing hearing loss or be a consequence of a hearing loss. For example, sleep apnea, diabetes, and high blood pressure all put a patient at risk for developing or worsening hearing loss. Understanding these connections will help you coordinate care for individuals seeing multiple health professionals and will help you work more effectively on an IPP team.



TIP #3

ENSURE THAT LEADERSHIP UNDERSTANDS THE VALUE AND EXPERTISE AUDIOLOGISTS PROVIDE.

As audiologists, we know our work is critical to improving our patients' lives. In many cases, it's up to us to ensure that other professionals, supervisors, and facility leadership understand what audiologists do and how we help patients. This may mean hosting in-services for fellow medical staff to educate them on the role of an audiologist and to share relevant research, such as studies showing that treating hearing loss leads to a lower likelihood of hospital readmission.



TIP #4

ALWAYS COMMUNICATE – ESPECIALLY IF YOU WORK SEPARATELY FROM OTHER PROVIDERS.

Audiologists often work in settings, such as a small private practice, separate from other care providers. Unfortunately, "out of sight" often means "out of mind." Even when you're not actively part of an IPP team, it's important to keep other health care providers in the loop with a quick phone call or email about the patient's progress. For example, reach out to the patient's internist or referring specialist to discuss connections between their hearing loss and the comorbid conditions they are treating.