Tools for patients and family to address hearing loss together

Most patients begin to realize their hearing loss through interaction and communication with family and friends. As a result, family members play a key role in the decision-making process.¹

Should I do anything about my hearing?

What action will I take to address my hearing difficulties?

Tools to involve family members in the decision-making process:

The Decision Aid²

What?
Simple written document that presents brief facts on different options

How?
Patient ticks boxes in which options they would like to learn more about

HCP evaluates patient on these options

Patient marks options he is still interested in

Patient discusses Decision Aid with family

The Transtheoretical Model of Change³

What?
Shows stages of the patient journey and how HCP can provide support in the different stages

How?
HCP assesses in which stage patient and family member are

HCP analyses their attitudes and beliefs towards intervention in this stage

HCP provides support according to stage: attitudes and beliefs, e.g., education, informal counseling at early stages, encouragement and support for actions at later stage

The Goal-sharing for Partners Strategy (GPS)⁴

What?
Guided consideration of potential actions about hearing loss

How?
Patient and family member invited to discuss what they hope to achieve by taking action

HCP guides discussion by asking both to consider together:
1. successful communication situations
2. situations in which each experiences problems
3. situations in which both experience problems
4. Goals they would like to achieve
5. Potential steps to achieve these goals

Joint decision

96% higher uptake of hearing instruments in mild hearing losses when a family member is present⁵

What is Family-Centered Care (FCC)?

FCC is an approach to healthcare that recognizes the vital role that families play. It considers the patient and his/her family members as partners in the planning, execution, and monitoring of the treatment. FCC has become a success model in healthcare over the last decade, and it is now finding its way into hearing healthcare.