

New Protocol for Auditory Processing Disorder (APD)

I am very pleased to announce that effective April 1st, 2015, Horizon Audiology Services will begin a new standardized protocol for the assessment of patients with suspected Auditory Processing Disorder (APD).

What is Auditory Processing Disorder?

An Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) is a deficit in interpreting auditory information. Our ears detect sounds, but it is our brain that helps us figure out what those sounds mean. Typically, a person with an Auditory Processing Disorder has normal hearing, but the brain has difficulty interpreting speech and other sounds in a meaningful way.

What's new with APD testing in Horizon?

- All hospital audiologists in Horizon are now trained to test for APD. In the past, it was offered as a specialized area of service handled only by designated clinicians in certain facilities.
- The protocol, materials, and approach have been standardized for all sites, according to latest best practice standards.

What is involved with APD testing?

- Patients referred for APD testing will undergo a regular audiological work-up as well as a special APD screening battery which typically takes an extra 10-15 minutes.
- Screening can also be added to a regular audiology test battery based on case history and testing results at the audiologist's discretion.
- Based on results of the screening tests and case history, the audiologist may recommend the patient return for full APD testing, which typically takes several hours.

Where can I find out more about this service?

- For more detailed information on the new protocol, including referral criteria and instructions, handouts, and contact information for the audiology clinic closest to you, please go to the new APD section of the Horizon Audiology website:

<http://bit.ly/1EpWOEm>

How can I provide feedback or ask questions about this service?

- We would love to receive your feedback on this or any other service offered through Horizon Audiology. Please contact your local hospital audiology clinic (contact list attached) or the Regional Audiology Clinical Lead at Darin.Quinn@HorizonNB.ca.

Sincerely,

Darin Quinn, MSc. SLP

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