

Being Deaf Matters



LIPSPEAKER UK

- British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreter
- Lipspeaker
- Deafblind Interpreter
- Former Nurse
- Former Midwife



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Understand issues faced by deaf and deafblind women in your care

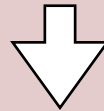
Be aware of the laws in place to protect deaf and deafblind people

Have a better understanding of how you can make difference

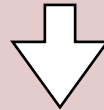
Consider next steps

On the rights of persons with disabilities preamble talks about inherent dignity, worth and equal rights for all

Article 2 talks about Communication and Language discrimination on the basis of disability



And asks for reasonable accommodation



To be available for all without adaption

**The British sign Language
(BSL) Act 2022**

The Equality Act 2010

**The Accessible
Information Standard (AIS)**

The Accessible Information Standard says that people who have a disability or sensory loss should get information in a way they can access and understand:

- **Ask**
- **Record**
- **Alert / flag / highlight**
- **Share**
- **Act**



Tips



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- Asking deaf parents to call if they need help or advice-give an accessible contact method.



- Assuming the leaflets are understood by all-give an accessible alternative.

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- Asking if the parents want to hear the baby's heartbeat- consider asking if they would like to feel the vibrations through the machine being used.

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- Leaving food in front of deafblind mums on the ward- ensure they know it is in front of them.

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- Practicing your knowledge of BSL - Don't assume your knowledge of BSL is sufficient to communicate with deaf parents.

- Saying sorry if the baby is born deaf; this may be the greatest joy for the parents.



- Ask if communication support is needed and their preferred method such as BSL interpreters/lipspeakers/interpreters for deafblind people/notetakers.
- Ensure you book support with plenty of notice as there are so few language professionals in the UK.
- Ensure you can be contacted using alternative methods - not only by phone.
- Ensure the information you use to inform, advertise and share is accessible to all.
- Do ensure risks and associated possible interventions are explained as a matter of course throughout the last trimester and not as an emergency is unfolding. Consent forms must be understood so please always use the correct communication support professional at the appropriate time. Risks for common possible emergencies must be explained while the mother is awake and alert and able to follow the risks/side effects before she can give consent
- Do ensure a team of interpreters are introduced throughout the pregnancy so that a familiar face is present for the delivery. The same team should be used postpartum for any visits and checks on the mother or the baby.
- Do consider haptics as appropriate.
- Do remember the interpreter is there for you both.



Thank you

For your time and patience

Questions?

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