

The Medical Interpreting Kaleidoscope: A Conversation on Perspectives

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Deaf people are

6.9x

more likely to have
inadequate health literacy.

Source: McKee, M.M., et al. (2015). Assessing Health Literacy in Deaf American Sign Language Users. *Journal of Health Communication*.



My inspiration:
Richard M. Axelrod, AKA **“Dad”**

From your perspective, how has COVID impacted the healthcare experience for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals?



“As soon as a hospital denied my request for an in-person interpreter, I immediately worried about how I would access communication before and after my upcoming outpatient procedure. Should I postpone? Contact an attorney? Thankfully, they finally obliged.”

- Jay Blumenfeld



“As a Deaf COVID-19 survivor, I am dismayed by healthcare providers’ inability to provide effective communication during this pandemic. My frustrations include having to type back and forth during telehealth visits, being denied in-person interpreters several times after testing negative for COVID-19, and experiencing the dreaded “unable to connect” with video remote interpreting (VRI).”

- Katy Schmidt



My two **little men**:
Ryder Jake &
Jordan Shay

GJB2-related DFNB1 Nonsyndromic Hearing Loss and Deafness referred to as a “**disease.**”



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What else has happened during this current pandemic?

Martinez et al v. Cuomo

YELAPI et al v. DESANTIS et al

IL Governor J.B. Pritzker

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF, et al., v.
TRUMP, et al.

What are other elements within the patient experience that are cumbersome to navigate or are not accessible to Deaf and hard of hearing individuals?

COVID has done two things:

- ❑ Exacerbated challenges
- ❑ Proven we are in a reactive state

Functionally Equivalent Healthcare

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What are you doing to adjust accordingly to effectively interpret in healthcare settings?

Do you feel agencies are doing enough to support your needs to effectively interpret in healthcare settings?

What can healthcare organizations do to support your needs while interpreting in healthcare settings?

How do we drive **change**?



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