



Enhancing access to care and support for people with deafblindness: development of a Functional Assessment Questionnaire for Deafblindness

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The Dutch functional definition of deafblindness

(Heppe et al, 2021)



- Describes an impairment in terms of its impact on daily functioning in several domains of functioning
- Should be used alongside the medical definition to determine access to deafblind-specific care and support

Functional Assessment Questionnaire for deafblindness

- An assessment questionnaire to evaluate problems in daily functioning and identify support needs
- 12 functioning domains assessed through 14 items
- Aim: improving access to deafblind-specific support

Development process

Creating consensus on the functioning domains, items, and questions with a multidisciplinary working group, including experts-by-experience. Based on 14 existing instruments and theoretical models (e.g. ICF model):

Step 1 • prioritisation of 35 identified functioning domains

Step 2 • selection of 12 functioning domains for questionnaire

Step 3 • development of 14 items and >50 example questions

Methods pilot study

Setting

5 organisations providing care and education to people with sensory disabilities

Participants

11 (potential) clients/relatives, 10 professionals

Instruments

Functional Assessment Questionnaire for Deafblindness
Interviews & survey

Preliminary results

- N=8 clients, N=7 professionals
- Response rate 100%
- Average duration of assessment: 61 minutes (range 45-76)
- All items were answered completely
- Problems identified: average: 7.0 (range 3-14)
- Help requests identified: average 3.3 (range 1-8)



Residual senses



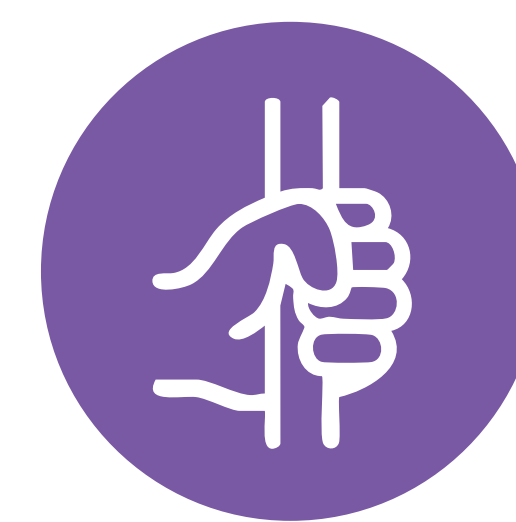
Other senses



Social functioning



Communication



Independence and self-reliance



Autonomy



Orientation & mobility



Participation in society



Environmental factors



Energy balance



Information acquisition and processing



Acceptance

Description of domains



Quotes – experiences

Raises awareness for blind spots

Mean grade (scale 1-10) (N=8):

8.0



Clients

It is structured and broad

Too long for overburdened parents: could be split

Good themes for new client visits

Mean grade (scale 1-10) (N=7):

7.2



Professionals

Example questions are very helpful

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