

General Preparation for video conferencing

Get in touch with your participant by phone or email, depending on the participant's preference.

Introduce yourself, your role, and the purpose of the session. Establish if a face-to-face meeting for the assessment is required or if the online assessment can be carried out via a video link. Explore the participant's level of assistance required to navigate their available video conferencing platform, establish if they have the minimum WiFi speed, and check level of assistance required to activate the video conferencing link. Explore levels of support the PWA has at home. Is there a person in their lives who can help?

Go through the study visits flow chart and arrange a mutually convenient date and time.

Overall set-up

Once you have successfully connected to the PWA via video conferencing spend a little time getting to know the person on the other end of the screen and letting them get to know you.

- You can use household objects visible on the screen to ask about hobbies, you can ask them about their day so far, or who is in their household supporting them.
- Tell them about your day, or what you watched on TV last night for example. Ask them if they have a drink, and if not, if there is someone in the household who could make one.

Explore which total communication strategy helps the PWA during conversations, and which ones do not. The 'How to Help a Person with Aphasia Access Outcome Measures Face to Face or Online' document can help you to establish a communication profile with the relevant communication strategies.

Facilitation Strategies

PWA will have differing needs for alternative communication strategies to access the MDCA. Reading the numerical values and the frequencies aloud whilst using the cursor to highlight the target item may help the participant if they need this orientation.

Enlarge the cursor and give it a bold colour if required. You can do this in settings. Go to **settings**, select the **accessibility folder**, and click on **mouse pointer and touch**. There you will find options to change the size and style of your mouse.

Ensure that you are happy that the respondent understands the response options and can use verbal or visual means to indicate their choice, before you move on.

During the administration of an outcome measure use various facilitation strategies to help people with aphasia.

- Encourage the PWA to write/draw responses and hold them up to the camera
- If a participant looks unsure after a question check their understanding (eg: “is this clear?”) and repeat the questions.
- Be patient and allow extra processing time.