

The Art of Communication with Medical Practitioners

- How to get the attention of medical practitioners on the topic of elderly people with acquired deafblindness and the purpose of rehabilitation even for those?
- Presenters: Jorunn Lie and Live Fuglesang, advisers at The Regional Centre for Deafblind, Skådalen Resource Centre, Oslo, Norway

Norway is a small country with 4,6 mill. inhabitants and we know of 542 persons who are deafblind.



The National Resource System for Deafblind People:

- 4 centres have a special responsibility towards deafblind in their region. (Skådalen, Andebu, Vest and North.)
- Huseby Resource Centre for the visually impaired
- Eikholt Centre for the Deaf-blind
- AKS, Andebu School and Resource Centre

How old are those we know of?

Acquired deafblindness (416):

Years of age:	0-18	19-66	67+
	8	165	243

Congenitally deafblind (126):

Years of age:	0-18	19-66	67+
	42	82	2

Identification as deafblind leads to certain rights:

- **Guide/interpreter service**
- National **social insurance** system support
- **Reduced-rate-ticket and free travelling** for the guiding person
- **Rehabilitation-courses** at Eikholt Centre
- **Free newspaper and weekly magazine** based on braille, large print, audiocassettes or electronic distribution
- **A Special Service** for deafblind individuals to facilitate the reading of **private papers** based on the same formats as above, offered by The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille
- **Technical aids**

The Reason why this Course

- Our experience is that many elderly people with dual sensory loss rarely get any special attention by the local service
- When they get attention, the dual sensory loss might be so severe that testing different aids might be too late
- It`s urgent to get rehabilitation as soon as possible

Medical practitioners

- General practitioners (GP) or those in charge of medical attention at the home for the elderly are of great importance
- They have medical journals and will be central persons to give advice concerning dual sensory loss and furthermore in the process of rehabilitation
- It's crucial that they get sufficient information about deafblind persons rights, where to get rehabilitation and that the outcome actually improves quality of life!

The Target of the Course

- Increase the awareness of:
 - Common diagnoses of severe sensory loss in old age
 - Consequences for elderly persons with severe loss of vision and hearing
 - Rehabilitation opportunities and relevant aids

- Acquire an orientation about the services and the adequate service providers

- To reach as many GP's as possible it was important that the course was accepted by the Norwegian Medical Association as part of their further education

Vision and hearing loss among elderly people, consequences and opportunities

08:45 – 09:00	Introduction/presentation	Hans K. Røkenes Head of Service/ Otologist
09:00 - 09:45	The physiology of the ear	Otologist
09:45 - 10:30	Hearing loss among elderly people: The cause of hearing loss Rehabilitation limit Hearing aid adaption	Nils Egge, Otologist Ann Kristin Egge, Audiograf
10:30 – 10:45	Break	
10.45 – 11.30	Diagnoses of redused vision	Sigmund Spetalen Ophthalmologist
11:30-11:45	Break	



11:45 – 12.30	Vision damaged by stroke, opportunities and rehabilitation	Gunnvor Wilhelmsen, Senior adviser
12:30 – 13:15	Lunch	
13:15 – 13:45	Experiences as vision and hearing impaired person	Nina Skorge, Doctor, former medical practitioner
13:45- 14:15	Opportunities of rehabilitation	Jorunn Lie and Else Marie Svingen, Advisers
14:15 –14:30	Break	
14:30 – 15:30	Aids to compensate for vision and hearing loss	Rikke Ombustvedt, Visionpedagogue Ann M. Rekkedal, Hearingpedagogue
15:30 – 16:00	Summary/closing	

Those who made this Course possible

- Otologist
- Ophthalmologist
- Vision-pedagogue
- Audio-pedagogue
- Advisers from Regional Centre for Deafblind, Skådalen

Evaluation

- Usefull to be reminded of the subject
- Usefull to be reminded of the impact on the senses for the functional level
- Increased attencion about dual sensory loss in old age