the majority of patients of a geriatric audiology clinic with co-morbid hearing loss and cognitive impairment. In a study of hearing aid use in 67 patients with these comorbidities, over 90% used hearing aids successfully with measurable benefit for both patients and caregivers. Furthermore, we will discuss approaches to improving communication for LTC residents with dementia and hearing loss through the support of audiologists during remote visits with physicians and families during the pandemic.

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH HEARING, VISION, AND COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

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Many older adults being evaluated for dementia have unrecognized hearing and/or vision problems which can confound results of neuropsychological assessment(s) and can impact care recommendations. International care standards for detection, assessment, and management of people living with dementia (PwD) are rarely addressed yet are critical. We propose a set of recommendations crafted to foster the highest quality health care to enable PwD to live well with these combined impairments. The focus is detection, diagnosis, treatment, and support of PwD who have age-related hearing and/or vision impairments. The guiding principles underlying the recommendations was a focus on promotion of a person-centered approach, but to be pragmatic in considering all contextual levels including professional care pathways and socio-economic/policy factors internationally. The recommendations are inclusive of all stakeholders who work together to promote equity and mutual respect across the domains. The guidelines are designed to be pragmatic, implementable, resource sparing, and sustainable.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

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The purpose of study was to explore changes in implemented of APS programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This three-phase study began with telephone interviews with eight state-level APS administrators of early phase “hot-spots” that were used to inform questions for the Phase II national survey of state APS programs. Forty-seven states completed an on-line survey on the effects of the pandemic on work and workload, policy and practice, staff, partnerships, and preparedness. Phase III interviews with 7 local APS programs provided an “on-the-ground” view of challenges of meeting clients’ needs. Although most APS programs reported fewer reports of adult maltreatment than before the pandemic, the stress and disruption of COVID-19 required new work arrangements, to which programs adapted technological and managerial support to care for the needs of both APS staff and the clients they served. Finding provide insight for policy and planning requirements for future catastrophic events.

COVID-19 AND THE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM: FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL STUDY

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The purpose of our study was to explore changes for long-term care ombudsman programs across the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The study team explored the effect of COVID-19 on programs: cases, resident engagement, complaint Investigation and resolution, services, complaints, changes in visitation, and preparedness plans. The research team developed survey items and beta-tested them with state and local LTCOs prior to distributing the survey nationally to State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman in order to characterize experiences of the participants. From 62 state LLTC respondents we learned there were 81.0% fewer cases received, 97.36% were less able to engage with residents, 78.95% were less involved