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HLAA Position Statement on Aural Rehabilitation

Synopsis: The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) supports the use of an Aural Rehabilitation model for hearing healthcare to reduce or eliminate participation restrictions and activity limitations imposed by hearing loss.

Aural Rehabilitation (AR) consists of evidence-based practices that help to address the challenges posed by hearing loss, such as communication difficulties and diminished quality of life, both for hard of hearing individuals and their significant others. These practices include:

- Use of Hearing Assistive Technologies (HAT) to mitigate the impact of distance and noise, facilitate the use of the telephone, and/or serve as alerting devices;
- Training in communication strategies;
- Auditory Training for better concentration, management of auditory fatigue and the development of relaxation skills;
- Access to peer groups that provide empathy, support, encouragement, and education; a
- Counseling to cultivate skills for building resourcefulness and emotional resilience.

Historically, aural rehabilitative audiology for adults with acquired hearing loss has been difficult to access. Audiologists are rarely trained to practice hearing healthcare within an aural rehabilitation model and professionally delivered AR services provided by audiologists are often not covered by health insurance. By contrast, AR services are often covered by insurance, for example, when they are provided by speech/language pathologists.

HLAA helps to make available resources for AR and supports the availability of resources and tools that help individuals to successfully solve communication challenges and optimize quality of life.

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References

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