

Date:	April 27, 2020
To:	ICU Nursing Leaders, Staff and Physicians
From:	Beth Ann Derksen, Executive Lead, Critical Care Service Network Dr. MJ Slabbert, Medical Lead, Critical Care Service Network
CC:	Penny Anguish, NI Chief Operating Officer; Angela De Smit, NE Chief Operating Officer, Ciro Panessa, NW Chief Operating Officer; Northern Health Medical Directors; NH EOC; Directors of Care; NH Speech-Language Pathologists
Re:	ICU Assisted Communication Toolkit & Resources

As part of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak response, a communication toolkit was developed in anticipation that we will see an increase in patients who require intubation and are not able to communicate easily. Each ICU nursing leader in Northern Health will soon receive several copies of the toolkit from DocumentSource.

The use of standardized assisted communication will ensure all patients experience safe, high quality, and patient-centred care. We encourage all ICU teams to implement this newly developed toolkit, using the resources provided below.

ICU Assisted Communication Toolkit	Description
10-800-6024 ICU Assisted Communication Toolkit	The toolkits you will receive will be sets of laminated sheets. The sheets can be cleaned with any disinfectant between patient uses (e.g., Oxivir or Virex 256).
Implementation Resource	Description
ICU Assisted Communication Toolkit Overview <i>See first page of toolkit above</i>	One page with tips and considerations for use. Instructions on partner-assisted scanning are also available on the back of the alphabet board in the toolkit.
Assisted Communication Skills Training http://nucleus.con.ohio-state.edu/media/speacs2/speacs.htm	60 minute online training program. Learners will be able to apply cognitive, sensory, and motor assessment findings to select appropriate strategies and low tech assistive communication tools to facilitate comprehension and expression of messages among non-vocal patients. <i>Developed for ICU nurses but can be used by all health professions.</i> (Ohio State University College of Nursing)
Speech-Language Pathologists	Please reach out to the SLP nearest you for assistance as required.

Thank you to our Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) team at UHNBC who developed the toolkit.

Note the toolkit was designed specifically for ICU patients. Please consult an SLP to assess the appropriateness of using the toolkit with patients outside of the ICU. Each patient is unique and may require different assisted communication strategies and tools.

Thank you