



**BRITISH ACADEMY
OF AUDIOLOGY**

British Academy of Audiology

Position Statement NICE Guidance Stroke

Position Statement: Increasing Awareness of Hearing Loss Screening Following Stroke

The British Academy of Audiology (BAA) affirms that systematic screening for hearing loss following a stroke is an essential component of high-quality post-stroke care. Evidence identifies the importance of appropriate tools to screen/assess hearing in people after stroke. NICE (2023) reviewed a range of screening options including handheld hearing screeners, validated hearing questionnaires, and bedside clinical tests.

Stroke-related auditory deficits may be overlooked, yet they can significantly hinder engagement in rehabilitation and daily communication. The BAA supports NICE guidance that stresses the need for an initial hearing screen in the first 6 weeks after the stroke and the requirement to refer all patients with reported hearing difficulties following stroke to Audiology for a comprehensive hearing assessment. This aligns with the broader evidence that early audiological involvement improves patient outcomes.

Responsibility for the identification of patients requiring a hearing assessment following stroke lies with the medical team managing the overarching care of the patient. It is recommended that stroke services establish effective communication channels with Audiology Teams to establish a direct referral route for diagnostic hearing assessment and subsequent management of any hearing loss.

The BAA recommends consistent implementation of hearing screening protocols within stroke services across the UK, alongside improved awareness among clinicians, commissioners, and multidisciplinary teams involved in post-stroke care. By embedding hearing screening and assessment into standard stroke rehabilitation practice; communication, cognitive and emotional recovery will be optimised for the patient.

References

NICE (2023) Stroke Rehabilitation in Adults. Available at:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng236/resources/stroke-rehabilitation-in-adults-pdf-66143899492549> (Accessed 7 May 2026)

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