

## CORRY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

### POLICY AND PROCEDURE

EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW DATE(S): \_\_\_\_\_

REVISION DATE(S): 5-17-12 \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BY: MEC 5-22-12  
(Signatures of multidisciplinary personnel involved in policy and procedure development.)

#### **SUBJECT: Persons with Hearing Impairment Disabilities**

**PURPOSE:** The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the provision of care.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of Corry Memorial Hospital to not discriminate against individuals with disabilities in the provision of care. This policy addresses hearing impairment.

**EQUIPMENT/SERVICES:** TDD; Written Materials; Qualified sign language interpreters

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Determine, in consultation with the patient, the appropriate auxiliary aide or service.
2. In some instances, such as when a conversation is particularly important relative to the care and services being provided, or is particularly complex, effective communication may only be ensured through the use of a qualified interpreter.
3. Qualified interpreters may include family members or friends, as long as they are effective, accurate, impartial (especially in personal or confidential situations), and an acceptable choice to the patient; personnel from the facility, or interpreters from interpreter services.
4. The health care professional can choose alternatives to interpreters as long as the result is effective communication. Alternatives to interpreters should be discussed with hearing impaired patients.
5. Acceptable alternatives may include: note taking; written materials, or if viable, lip reading.
6. Although the health care professional makes the final decision regarding use of an interpreter or other alternative, the patient's choice should be given primary consideration.
7. CMH is responsible for the cost of the interpreter and cannot impose a surcharge on the patient.
8. TDDs must be made available to hearing impaired patients in CMH for outgoing phone calls.

**CHARTING:** Auxiliary aids and services used should be properly documented in the medical record.

**GUIDELINES:** TDD is physically located in the Emergency Room.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:** CMH is not required to provide an interpreter when it would present an undue burden (a significant expense or difficulty to the operation of the facility) or it would fundamentally alter the nature of the services normally provided.

**PERSONS PERMITTED TO PERFORM:** All Health Care Professionals

