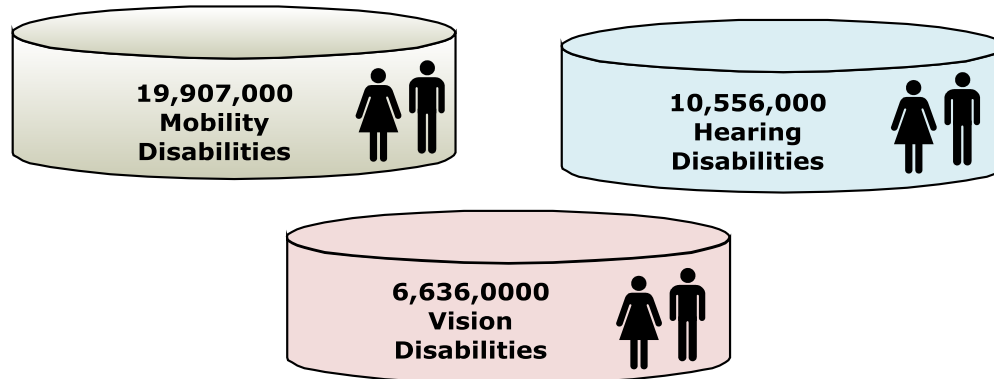


ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE

Introduction

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that health care providers provide individuals with disabilities full and equal access to their health care services and facilities. Title II of the ADA applies to public hospitals, clinics and health care services operated by state and local governments and Title III of the ADA applies to privately-owned and operated hospitals, clinics and health care providers. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act applies to recipients of federal financial assistance such as Medicaid and federally conducted programs.

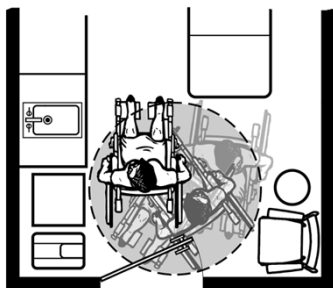
Who Is Affected by Inaccessible Medical Facilities and Services?



Is Your Facility Accessible for All Patients? Here Are Some Accessibility Features for Consideration

- Accessible parking spaces, curb ramps or loading zones at building entrance.
- Doorways wide enough to ensure safe and accessible passage by individuals using mobility aids.
- Restrooms that have adequate maneuvering space for wheelchairs around toilets, grab bars mounted next to and behind toilets, and accessible lavatories.
- No objects protruding into routes of travel that would pose a hazard for someone who is blind or had limited vision.
- Accessible, stairs-free route from parking and loading zones up to building entrance.
- Accessible routes of travel into and throughout buildings.
- Drinking fountains, public telephones, and service counters low enough to be usable for an individual who uses a wheelchair or scooter or is of short stature.
- Signage with Braille and raised tactile text characters at office, elevator and restroom doors.

What Types of Accessibility Barriers Do Patients with Disabilities Encounter in Examination Rooms and Medical Equipment?



Do your examination rooms provide clear floor space for a person to turn in their wheelchair or scooter?

Can people using mobility aids transfer safely and easily to and from your exam tables and chairs?



Can your mammography equipment be used with patients who may be seated in a wheelchair?

Are your patient scales capable of weighing a person using a wheelchair?



Are stretchers or other equipment available for assisted transfer of patients with mobility disabilities onto the surface of your radiology equipment?

Are You Able to Effectively Communicate with Your Patients Who Have Hearing, Vision, Speech or Cognitive Disabilities?

Type of Disability	Some Suggestions for Accommodations
Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face the patient when speaking. • Use written notes for uncomplicated, short, routine communication. • Qualified sign language interpreters may be required for more complex situations.
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide print information in large print, Braille, as an audio recording or in electronic format for use with a screen reader. • With the patient's permission, provide a qualified reader. • Ensure that your web site is accessible – usable by all patients including those who are blind and may use computer screen reading technology.
Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are having difficulty understanding the patient's speech, be patient, listen attentively and ask the patient to repeat or write the message. • Allow more time to communicate with someone who uses a communication board or device.
Cognitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the patient's permission, provide a reader. • If patient is having difficulty with communication, be patient, repeat your message and question patient to verify their understanding. • Use diagrams and pictures to improve communication.

References

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Equal Rights Center. (2011). Ill-Prepared Health Care's Barriers for People with Disabilities.

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About Our Organization

Northwest ADA Center provides technical assistance, information, and training regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. Information is provided from the regional office in Washington State and affiliates in Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon. Specialists are available to answer specific questions pertaining to all titles of the ADA and accessibility of the built environment. Training staff offer presentations to businesses, organizations, schools, people with disabilities, and the general public.

Northwest ADA Center

800-949-4232 ♦ www.nwadacenter.org



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Alternate formats available upon request.