

## AAC Clinic Team



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Communication Accessible Service Available



## MISSION

Hotel Dieu Shaver is a community of holistic and compassionate care for all those who seek our service and for those who serve. As a Roman Catholic facility, grounded in God's love, we provide the resources and care to enable people to reach their optimal level of health and well-being.

## VISION

Hotel Dieu Shaver will be a Centre of Excellence in rehabilitation, complex care, and geriatric services, and will also be an employer of choice. We will achieve this vision by providing high-quality patient services, and programs based on population health needs and best practices.

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## Augmentative & Alternative Communication Clinic



Serving adults in  
Niagara since 2014.

Renewing Hope.  
Rebuilding Lives.



## Referrals

A referral from a physician or nurse practitioner is required. The referral form can be found on our website: [www.hoteldieushaver.org](http://www.hoteldieushaver.org).

## Admission Criteria

- Valid Ontario Health Card
- 18 years or older
- Speech and/or handwriting does not currently meet daily communication needs (or there is an anticipated decline in function)

## What is Augmentative and Alternative Communication?

The Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Clinic helps adults whose speech, language, and/or handwriting do not meet communication needs. *Augmentative* communication refers to devices and strategies that enhance existing speech, whereas *alternative* communication provides options for replacing verbal communication and/or handwriting.

Communication looks different for everyone. The AAC Clinic highly respects client goals and preferences when exploring a variety of communication aids and strategies, including, but not limited to, assistive technology. The goal is to keep clients communicating in a way that meets their needs, skills, and lifestyle - now and in the future.

*Early referrals are recommended to optimize communication options and ensure timely access to services. Please note that this clinic does not provide traditional speech therapy or occupational therapy.*

## Our Services Include:

- Face-to-face Communication Assessment and/or Written Communication Assessment by Occupational Therapist (OT) and Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)
- Customized equipment options (e.g. tablet with communication software or communication board)
- Customized alternatives to handwriting or using computer controls (e.g. specialized mice, keyboards, head control, eye control, etc.)
- Customized options for device mounting (e.g. table mount, mounting to wheelchair, etc.)
- Voice banking and/or message banking (available for qualifying clients only)
- Client training
- Family/caregiver training
- Troubleshooting and technical support as needed
- Re-assessment due to changing physical or communication needs
- In-person and/or remote appointments available

## Who can benefit from AAC?

- Adults whose verbal communication is unreliable, insufficient, or not well understood by others
- Adults with physical disabilities that impede functional writing and/or computer use
- Adults whose speech or written communication is anticipated to decline with progression of illness

## Funding for Communication Devices

- There is no fee for the services provided by the AAC Clinic
- We are designated as an expanded level clinic by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP)
- If eligible, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ADP may provide funding assistance for the purchase or lease of prescribed communication aids
- Funding assistance may also be available through the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP), extended benefits, and various organizations such as Ontario Federation of Cerebral Palsy and ALS Canada