Alternative systems of communication with the patient

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People communicate with each other all the time. Without communication, we would not be able to do anything. It's hard to think of a situation when you do not need any type of communication at all.

According to the American Hospital Association, "Today's healthcare environment makes good communication among patients, families, and caregivers harder and harder to achieve. Hospital stays are shorter, medical care is more technologically complex, resources are constrained, and there is a growing need for patients and families to have more information about, and involvement in, care decisions."
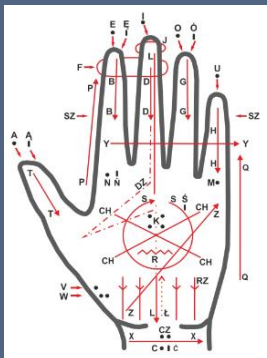
AAC - Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Alternative - replacement, substitute   **Supportive - strengthens and complements**

The choice of the appropriate AAC method is preceded by a diagnosis and depends on:

- The physical capabilities of the user
- Intellectual capabilities of the user
- Motivation and emotions, initiative and reaction to being understood or not
- The patient's environment: partners in communication.

Types of AAC communication systems:

- Graphic - a message using signs in the form of pictures, letters, etc.
- Manual - gestures and gesture systems, natural
- Haptic-spatial - pointing items, useful during selection acts
- Sound (speech synthesizers).

Be an attentive communication partner:

- See messages

- Name the patient's intentions and behaviors

- Support the message: point the finger, be expressive

- Build a common field of attention: physically limit the space, use the rule of alternation

- Tell the patient what you understand

- Be consistent in your communication strategies - do the same

Conclusion. The basic issue for each person is the development of communication skills in their environment. It is important not to be afraid to use supportive or alternative means of communication in working with the patient.