

# Stroke Education Series

## Module 3: Swallowing and Communication

**Cognitive-Communication:** difficulty with any aspect of communication that is affected by a disruption of cognition. Problems with cognitive-communication can affect activities of daily living, and academic and work performance.

### Attention:

- **Alternating attention:** talking on the phone while someone in the background is asking you questions. You need to be able to stop the conversation on the phone to answer your spouse/child's question and then return back to the conversation where it was left off without having to start the conversation all over again.
- **Divided attention:** talking on phone while preparing a can of soup.

### Memory:

- The ability to remember; the processes involved: attention, encode/store the information, retrieve the stored information
- **Short-term memory:** the very short time that you keep something in mind before either dismissing it or transferring it to long-term memory.
- **Long-term memory:** our brain's system for storing, managing, and retrieving information.

### Problem Solving and Verbal Reasoning:

- The ability to think or reason about things; decision making
- I.e. you have diabetes and you are out grocery shopping when you begin to feel dizzy; you decide in the moment that you have to tell someone and ask for help (juice, insulin)

### Information Processing:

- The ability to make sense of information that is heard/read
- I.e. listening to your doctor give you the results of a recent blood test physical and what the next steps are (i.e. Further testing, prescription medication)

**Executive Functioning:** The ability to plan, initiate, complete, and oversee goal-directed behavior; \*\*coordinates attention, memory, and problem solving abilities to function creatively, competently, and independently\*\*

---

© Bridgepoint Active Healthcare 2013  
Bridgepointlivebetter.ca

---

Bridgepoint Active Healthcare provides care and services to adults living with Multiple complex health conditions. Active healthcare is what we do: we Manage, deliver, research and coordinate the highest quality care for adults Living with conditions like diabetes, stroke, heart disease, mental illness, cancer, And respiratory, neurological and degenerative diseases. We work with patients, And with health and community care providers to create a collaborative plan that Encompasses the individual's overall medical and psychosocial well-being. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, Bridgepoint includes the Bridgepoint Hospital, Bridgepoint Family Health Team, Bridgepoint Collaboratory for Research and Innovation and Bridgepoint Foundation.


 BRIDGEPOINT  
active healthcare

14 St. Matthews Road  
Toronto, ON M4M 2M5  
www.bridgepointlivebetter.ca

