

Publication of the **Group Speech Therapy Handbook**

Prague, 6, March 2025

Cerebrum, a non-profit patient organisation caring for people with acquired brain injury, together with Heilaheil, an Icelandic non-profit and non-governmental organisation for people with cerebrovascular disease, have published the **Group Speech Therapy Handbook**.

This practical handbook contains tips and suggestions for developing communication and interaction for adult clients with speech and language difficulties. It has been produced as part of the project "Sharing the experience of patient organisations specialising in patients with brain injury" funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. Its authors are experienced Czech **clinical speech therapists Mgr. Ing. Jana Horynová and Mgr. Bc. Michal Kraft.**

The speech therapy handbook contains **17 conversation topics covering personal and leisure activities, work life, and interesting facts about the Czech Republic and Iceland.** The authors aim to share new ideas for group speech therapy and further develop the conversational and communication skills of patients with acquired neurogenic communication disorders. In addition to structured conversation lessons, supplemented with numerous appendices and worksheets, the authors also provide a brief guide on how to use the handbook along with practical tips from their professional experience.

"Our handbook aims to enrich the range of available therapeutic materials for developing or rehabilitating language and speech functions in adult clients. Through individual lessons, we strive to encourage mutual communication and thus improve the quality of life for adults with neurogenic communication disorders," says Michal Kraft about their work.

Jana Horynová adds: *"From my perspective, the handbook includes a wide range of interesting conversational topics and provides users with opportunities to work with clients who have varying degrees of communication impairment. I am pleased that we have managed to create numerous exercises and activities that can be further developed. I also appreciate the enrichment of the publication with chapters about Iceland and the translation of the handbook into English."*

Nataša Randlová, Chairwoman of the Board of Cerebrum, concludes: *"The handbook has a broad range of applications. I can imagine that, to some extent, it could also be used in nursing homes, schools, community centres – essentially anywhere where communication is being trained. We are glad to have been the main initiators and coordinators of this project."*

The English version of the publication can be downloaded for free at the link:

<https://www.cerebrum2007.cz/en/counseling/group-speech-therapy-handbook>



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A patient non-profit organization bringing together people who have suffered brain damage (strokes, trauma, brain tumours or other damage) as well as their family members and caregivers. Cerebrum provides information to help understand brain injury issues. It runs a community centre for these people – a safe place for everyone. A space for mutual motivation and support. A space where we want to give everyone the feeling that they are not alone.

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Jana works as a teacher of speech and language pathology at the Faculty of Education and the First Faculty of Medicine of Charles University in Prague. She also works as a clinical speech and language therapist at the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the General University Hospital and First Faculty of Medicine in Prague where she treats adult patients with acquired neurogenic communication disorders and provides them with individual and group speech therapy. She also participates in field speech therapy care within the non-profit organization Aphasia Club.



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Michal works as a clinical speech and language therapist at the Centre of Aftercare and at the Department of Geriatrics of Mottl University Hospital, where he focuses on neurogenic communication disorders and dysphagia in adults and the elderly. He also provides field speech therapy in Prague as part of the non-profit organization Aphasia Club.