

Confidence with Augmentative and Alternative Communication among Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists in Ireland.

Thank you for considering participation in this survey. The purpose of this information sheet is to explain to you what our project is about, and what your participation would involve, to enable you to make an informed choice.

The purpose of this study is to examine the self-perceived confidence of Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists in the assessment and implementation of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in Ireland. As clinicians' confidence plays a crucial role in successful AAC service provision, we aim to use our survey to profile current clinical confidence levels with AAC in Ireland, and explore what clinicians feel would enhance their ability to support AAC users and their families.

The survey includes questions about your work setting, the caseload you work with, your years of experience, and your confidence at the different stages of assessment and implementation of AAC with service users. We anticipate the survey should take approximately **5-10 minutes** to complete.

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no obligation to participate, and should you choose to do so, you can refuse to answer specific questions, or decide to withdraw from the study prior to completing the survey. This survey is anonymous, and we are not asking you to disclose information that could identify you, such as your name, or precise work location.

You maintain the right to withdraw from the survey at any stage up to the point of data submission. At this point, your data will be collated with that of other participants, and can no longer be retracted. The anonymous data will be stored on a University College Cork supported cloud storage platform (One Drive), for a minimum of 13 months.

The information you provide will contribute to the final year dissertation of the two student researchers, Kirsty Lohan and Sophie Morley, who are completing the BSc Speech & Language Therapy at UCC. In addition, it may contribute to a publication or academic presentation.

There is no direct benefit to you that arises from completing this survey. However, you may value the opportunity to contribute to research, and to share your perspective on AAC in OT or SLT. We do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study.

This study has obtained ethical approval from the UCC Social Research Ethics Committee (Clinical Therapies Subcommittee) [CT-SREC-2024-06].

If you have any questions about this study, or if you wish to receive a summary of the results, please feel free to contact the Study Supervisors or the Student Researchers.

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