

# Promoting Best Practice for Perinatal Care of **DEAF WOMEN**



**LORI J. HUBBARD  
ELIZABETH D'ANDREA  
LUKE A. CARMAN**



To individualize nursing care in the perinatal setting for a woman who falls within a spectrum of hearing loss, it is helpful to first determine a woman's personal view of her status. Individuals may identify as big-D Deaf (culturally Deaf) or little-d deaf. In Deaf culture in the United States, American Sign Language (ASL) is used as the primary method of communication, and people identifying with this culture are typically more involved in social groups and networks within a Deaf community. Members of the Deaf culture are more apt to advocate for legal rights and equal opportunities for themselves and others because of awareness of statutes and legislation (National Association of the Deaf, n.d.-a; Richardson, 2014). Typically, people considered little-d deaf (medically deaf or latent deaf) were able to hear earlier in life but have lost hearing because of illness, medical complications, or aging. Because they rarely identify as culturally Deaf, little-d deaf individuals may not be aware of the availability of local or national support and resources (Fileccia, 2011; Flaskerud, 2014; Holcomb, 2013; Lieu, Sadler, Fullerton, & Stohlmann, 2007). Specific criteria for classifying oneself as Deaf or deaf are not rigid, and individuals may be fluid on a spectrum of identity in a hearing-dominant society (McIlroy & Storbeck, 2011).

---

**Abstract:** To evaluate perinatal nursing care for Deaf women, we conducted a pilot, descriptive study exploring women's prenatal, labor, and postpartum experiences. We used the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) framework to analyze women's responses and to explore implications for practice. Themes and women's stories are presented within the QSEN structure to promote informed and individualized perinatal nursing care for Deaf families. It is essential for nurses to stay abreast of resources and technological advances and to use culturally competent principles of communication. Nurses' knowledge of Deaf culture helps guide care, and their understanding of legal provisions and the Americans with Disabilities Act can lead to greater advocacy for Deaf women. Additional research is necessary to fill the current void in the literature about perinatal care for Deaf women. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nwh.2018.02.002>

**Keywords:** American Sign Language | Deaf | perinatal | pregnancy | QSEN

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8564675>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8564675>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)