

## Supplemental Material S2. Survey questions for patients.

1. Were you able to communicate through writing on a whiteboard or typing on a keyboard (e.g., smartphone, tablet, etc.) while you were not able to speak?

Yes

Maybe

No

2a. When you were not able to speak, how frustrated did you feel about your inability to effectively communicate your wants, needs, and thoughts?

Not at all  
frustrated

Slightly  
frustrated

Moderately  
frustrated

Very  
frustrated

Extremely  
frustrated

2b. Do you believe that you would have felt less frustrated if you had access to alternative communication strategies (e.g., a picture/spelling board, a communication application/device, etc.)?

Strongly  
disagree

Disagree

Neither agree  
nor disagree

Somewhat agree

Strongly agree

2c. How often did you attempt to initiate or initiate conversations (e.g., ask a question) when your doctors or nurses were in the room when you were unable to speak?

Never

Sometimes

About half  
the time

Most of the time

Always

2d. How often did your doctors and nurses attempt to initiate or initiate conversations with you (i.e., the patient) when you were unable to speak?

Never

Sometimes

About half  
the time

Most of the time

Always

2e. How often did you encounter communication breakdowns (i.e., you not understanding what your doctors or nurses meant; and/or you not being understood by your doctors or nurses)?

Never

Sometimes

About half  
the time

Most of the time

Always

2f. How often could these misunderstandings be resolved?

Never

Sometimes

About half  
the time

Most of the time

Always

2g. How often did you give up conveying a message due to communication difficulties?

Never

Sometimes

About half  
the time

Most of the time

Always

2h. How important do you think effective communication was between you and your doctors and nurses in the intensive care unit (ICU)?

Not at all  
important

Slightly  
important

Moderately  
important

Very  
important

Extremely  
important

2i. How supportive do you think your doctors and nurses were when you were trying to understand them or convey messages?

Not at all                      Slightly                      Moderately                      Very                      Extremely  
supportive                      supportive                      supportive                      supportive                      supportive

3. Please list 3-5 most important / most often used messages you would have liked to convey while you were nonspeaking in the intensive care unit (ICU).

4. Were you able to communicate these messages using strategies other than speech?  
Yes    Maybe    No

5. Could you explain the possible barriers that prevented you from conveying messages?

6. Have you encountered any moments that you intended to say something but gave up due to communication challenges? Please briefly describe one such situation.

7. Have you experienced any situations when you did not understand or misunderstood what your doctors or nurses were telling you? If yes, please describe the experience; describe what your doctors or nurses did to make you understand the information better; describe how you responded.

8. How did your doctors or nurses communicate with you when you were unable to speak? Please use the number 1-5 to rank the five most frequently used methods, with 1 indicating the most frequently used.

	Asked yes/no questions
	Used gestures
	Read your lips while you were mouthing words
	Gave you a pen and a paper/whiteboard to write/draw
	Gave you a picture board
	Gave you a spelling board
	Talked to your caregiver
	Provided you a keyboard on an electronic device (e.g., a smartphone, a tablet, etc.)

	Provided you a communication application (app.) on an electronic device
	Provided you a communication display on which you could select messages by looking at them
	Provided you an electronic device on which you could select messages by looking at them
	Others _____

9. If you could have used any materials you wanted to help you communicate, what would it be? Please list 3 methods that you would have preferred to use.

10. Have you received services from a speech-language pathologist (SLP)/speech therapist (ST) during your stay in the intensive care unit (ICU)?

11. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about your communication during your stay in the intensive care unit (ICU)?