Title: NAD Work with ICD-10

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Problem to be addressed:
Deaf children continue to experience language and communication struggles at the time of identification and we believe that sign language should be one of options to support child's development.

Proposed Solution:
We are proposing that NAD work to incorporate sign language in ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision) as one of the viable treatments at the time of identification.

Rationale:
Right now, sign language is not even one of the treatment plans for loss of communication because of hearing loss. Medical professions are not aware. They still think sign language is a novelty, something cute to learn. Since the last conference, NAD said it is not a priority. Per 2017, 98% babies were screened for hearing loss, 6,500 babies were identified with a hearing loss. Supposing the numbers are the same in the two years since the conference, 13,000 babies were identified with a hearing loss and sign language is not one of the treatment plans because NAD said it is not a priority.

Fiscal Impact:
None

NAD Board/HQ Response:
The NAD has been actively pursuing the inclusion of ASL as a covered service with the HHS. Our focus is on making changes in insurance coverage of ASL services. The ICD-10 is an international body with which the NAD has no involvement and would require extensive outreach before we have any influence. We are aware of key researchers exploring the inclusion of language deprivation disorder in the DSM, which is not accepting any major revisions at this time. Nevertheless, we have been advocating for sign language as a necessary approach at the time of identification. This process is ongoing and lengthy, and may exceed more than two years before changes may happen.