

Assisted Adaptive Communication Devices (AAC) Or Speech Generating Devices for Pediatrics

Category: Speech Generating Device

HCPC: E2500 Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded message.

Coverage:

Base: N/A

Supplemental: Covered in NCAL and SCAL

Medicare: Covered in NCAL and SCAL

Medi-Cal: Covered in NCAL and SCAL

Clinical Guidelines:

Will be covered if:

- Have completed at least 2 years of speech therapy with out improved communication/speech **and**
- Have a care-giver who has the ability to provide for maintenance and training in use of the device **and**
- Mental and cognitive abilities to generate speech **and**
- Comprehension and expression of language equivalent at least to that of a 5 year old

And meets one of the following criteria

1. Loss of previously developmentally normal speech through illness, trauma or degenerative disease with retained cognitive abilities
2. Failure to achieve speech/communication using adequate alternative means

Not covered for:

1. Use for developing language
2. Education goals
3. Child has spoken language adequate for expression of needs

Clinical Review:

Must be requested by a Head and Neck Surgery, Physiatrist, or a Neurologist.

Requires a completed evaluation by a Kaiser Permanente Speech Pathologist

For KPNC: Kaiser speech pathologist evaluation required. Request and completed speech pathologist evaluation sent to the DME Office. (DME Office sends request and speech pathologist evaluation to the DME Compliance Officer for a UM Regional Review.)

Process flow

1. School or parent request device from Pediatrician
2. Pediatrician reviews chart for:

- Hearing test
 - Speech therapy evaluation
 - If available obtains copies of speech therapy evaluation
3. If child is unable to effectively communicate request evaluation to speech therapy if not previously done, or sends to speech pathologist for evaluation
 4. Speech pathologist to complete evaluation for medical necessity of speech generating device (AAC) and to make recommendation for the appropriate speech generating device.
 5. If speech pathologist assessment is that member will benefit from the use of an AAC, information and evaluation will be sent to either Head and Neck

Usage Guidelines:

One AAC per member

Additional Documentation:

None

Access the [Durable Medical Equipment Order Tracking System](#).

If a user is unable to find an item, has questions regarding the DME Formulary, and/or needs assistance with navigating the website, he/she may contact his or her [local DME Office](#).

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