

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Assistive Technology – Practical Applications

Managed Long-term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee Meeting

Alex Crawford, Senior Director LTSS Clinical Operations

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What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is:

“Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”*

It is a service that promotes independence for adults with disabilities. Everyone who is Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible with Community Health Choices is eligible to have a referral submitted on their behalf

When is an Assistive Technology Referral typically discussed with a Participant?

Anytime a Participant reports issues or concerns related to:

**Hearing
Impairments**

**Vision
Impairments**

Mobility Issues

**Language/Speech
Impairments**

**Weakness in
Limbs**

**Trouble gripping
or holding items**

**Limited range of
motion**

**Inability to bend
or reach**

What are some examples of Assistive Technology?

Hearing Impairments

Personal amplification device,
Vibrating alarm clocks,
Doorbell with flashing light alert,
Amplified telephones,
Phone with captioning

Vision Impairments

Vision magnifiers,
Talking devices such as a talking thermostat,
Braille displays,
Screen reading software,
Text-to-speech systems,
Phones with large tactile buttons



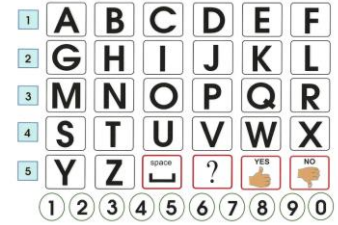
What are some examples of Assistive Technology?

Speech Impairments

Voice amplification systems,
Fluency assistance devices,
Communication boards,
Speech generating devices

Daily living and Environmental Adaptations

Dressing aids such as zipper pulls and button hooks,
Adapted kitchen tools and eating utensils,
A Reacher,
Door openers,
Voice, touch or other method of activation products (e.g., lights)



The Assistive Technology Referral Process

- A Service Coordinator discovers a need or a Participant requests assistance
- An InterRAI assessment is completed, and the need is documented
- A goal is added to the care plan
- An Assistive Technology referral is submitted by the Service Coordinator describing the general areas of concern (e.g., please evaluate for any equipment that may assist with hearing, vision, or mobility)
- The Assistive Technology team reviews the referral and if appropriate will send a request to have an Occupational Therapist (OT) evaluation completed
- Each Participant is evaluated individually based on their needs
- If approved, the Service Coordinator will be notified and will submit the authorization and monitor through completion

The service may include the evaluation of the need, the selection, purchasing or replacement of a device, coordinating services alongside the technology and training

Example

Participant is a 49-year-old female with blindness in the right eye and blurriness in the left eye and fine motor coordination due to multiple sclerosis. As a result, she has trouble with reading which impacts her ability to manage her medical care and assist with her children's homework. She also has trouble with fine motor control. She enjoys using her tablet but was having trouble holding onto it and was often dropping feeding and writing utensils. She also experiences general weakness, pain, and limited range of motion and utilizes an electric wheelchair daily.



Please note that the individual displayed is not the actual Participant in the example.

Outcome

The OT Recommended:

Desktop video magnifier

Protective utility case for 10" tablet with strap

Adaptive utensils- fork, teaspoon, knife

Foam tubing for writing utensils

Drinking mug with lid and straw

Utensil holders and straps

Portable magnifier with light and graspable handle



Questions?

Thank you