



Adaptive Equipment



Employee Orientation Phase 1

10/2012

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What is Adaptive Equipment?

Devices that help people do simple, everyday tasks more independently.

There are two broad types of adaptive equipment:

Assistive Technology

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

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What is the purpose of Adaptive Equipment?

To assist people with activities of daily living (ADLs).

- ADLs include:
 - Bathing
 - Dining
 - Dressing
 - Grooming, and
 - Toileting



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Examples of DME (Durable Medical Equipment)

- **Bath Safety:** Bath rails; Commodes with raised toilet seats and safety rails
- **Diabetic Supplies:** Testing supplies
- **Homecare Beds:** Adjustable and/or with safety rails
- **Power Chairs**
- **Pressure/Ulcer Prevention:** Mattresses
- **Respiratory:** Nebulizers
- **Scooters /Walking Aids:** Walkers/Canes
- **Wheelchairs**

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Examples of Assistive Technology - Vision

- Eyeglasses/Magnifying glass
- Large-print books/Books on tape
- Adapted paper (e.g., raised surfaces, highlighted lines, various colors, sizes)
- Calculator with large keys or large display/Talking calculators
- Braille translation software (translates text that can be Brailled)/Braille printer
- Computer with speech output or feedback
- Operating system special-accessibility options (screen enlargement, adjustment of keyboard, sound, display, mouse)
- Computer-screen magnifiers/Glare-reduction screens
- Talking electronic dictionary, thesaurus, spell checker
- Screen readers

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Examples of Assistive Technology - Communication

- Roller-ball pointing device with a separate button for clicking
- Adapted handles (e.g., pencil grips)
- Scotch tape to hold paper in place, Velcro
- Adapted book-page turners
- Switches/Head pointers or mouth stick to press keys on the keyboard
- Joysticks/Adapted mouse
- Foot pedals or hardware switches instead of a mouse
- Slant board/Tilt board/Book holders
- Voice input or output devices/Voice-recognition software (turns the spoken word into the typed word)
- Eye-controlled computer-input devices
- Touch window/screen/Alternative keyboards

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Examples of Assistive Technology - Hearing

- Hearing aids
- Signaling devices
- Pictures, photographs, objects
- Communication boards
- Assistive listening devices (e.g., amplified phone system)
- Headphones (to keep the listener focused, adjust sound, etc.)
- FM amplification systems (e.g., auditory trainer)
- TDD/TTY for phone service
- Closed-captioning television
- Real-time captioning
- CD-based (text)books, electronic books
- Audio-voice amplification device

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Identifying the Need for Adaptive Equipment

- Sometimes, consistent staff members may help identify the need for adaptive equipment
- Or, someone who works closely with the individual, or a family member, or even the individual may identify the need.
- What do you do then?

Tell the nurse or your supervisor

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Obtaining Equipment and Using It

- The ISP team should be involved in a decision to obtain an assessment.
- A specialized assessment should be done (e.g. by a physical therapist) to truly determine the need for the equipment and to obtain it.
- DSPs should be trained in its use and care.

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Role of the Direct Support Professional

- Be observant!!!! Your information is very valuable to the person and the team.
- Receive training on proper use
 - Covered in Specialized/ Individualized Training: Phase 2
- Encourage proper use by the individual and by others
- Don't use damaged equipment!
- Continually report damage of adaptive equipment until it is fixed

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Questions?



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