

Speech Generating Devices/Electronic Speech Aids

Speech Generating Devices are covered if the beneficiary suffers from severe speech impairment and the medical condition warrants the use of a device.

Coverage and Payment Policy

Prior authorization is required.

A speech generating device will be covered when all of the following criteria are met and documentation submitted:

1. Prior to delivery of the device the beneficiary has had a formal evaluation of their cognitive and communication abilities by a speech-language pathologist. The written evaluation must include the following:
 - a. Current communication impairment, including the type, severity, language skills, cognitive ability and anticipated course of the impairment;
 - b. An assessment of whether communication needs could be met without use of an assist device;
 - c. A description of the treatment goals;
 - d. Rationale for requesting a specific device and accessories;
 - e. Documentation of a training plan;
 - f. Documentation that the beneficiary is capable of using the device;
2. The beneficiary's speech impairment is one resulting in a severe expressive speech impairment; and
3. The beneficiary's speaking needs cannot be met using natural communication methods; and
4. Other forms of treatment have been considered and ruled out; and
5. The beneficiary's speech impairment will benefit from the device ordered; and
6. The SLP performing the beneficiary evaluation may not be an employee of or have a financial relationship with the supplier of the SGD; and
7. Treating Physician order is required for device and accessories.

Artificial larynx or electronic speech aids are covered for a beneficiary with documented laryngectomy or permanently inoperative larynx.

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Approved by:  Associate Medical Director
Jerry Fingerut, MD

Date: 29 December, 2014

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____