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 larynectomy or permanently inoperative larynx.