

Tech For Tykes



Tech Tips!



Assistive Technology Partners

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Prescribing an Assistive Technology Device

Did you know?

Sometimes service coordinators don't know an assistive technology (AT) device has been selected or prescribed for a child until they receive an invoice for it.

Why is that a problem?

Because it raises questions about:

- Who did the AT evaluation
- Who was involved in the decision-making process about the device
- If the device was trialed before the decision was made to purchase it
- If the proper documentation is in place for billing for the device
- How the device is being used to achieve outcomes for the child



What needs to happen?

Any time an AT device other than a low-tech, temporary solution is being considered for a child, the selection or prescription needs to start with the IFSP process, especially for high-tech devices that are ordered through a vendor.



1. If AT is being considered for a child an AT evaluation must take place, unless the child already has an existing AT device. In that case, an AT evaluation is not needed.
2. Before an AT evaluation can take place, AT is required to be put on the IFSP as an AT service.
3. Before an AT device is selected or recommended, an AT evaluation including device trials must take place. The IFSP team can determine if this is done by a provider from the IFSP team, an [AT Consultant](#) or a specialist.
4. Prior to accessing funding, the SC, along with the AT Consultant/provider, will explore if this device can be borrowed through the [Colorado Assistive Technology loan bank](#). Access to the loan library is through the AT Consultant.
5. If the AT item is going to be purchased, the provider who completed the evaluation and trial must follow the State Funding Hierarchy in order to obtain the device for the family. Service coordinators can help to gather insurance information, PCP contact, and other important information the provider may need from the family.
6. The recommended device and any AT services needed to support the device must be documented on the IFSP in an outcome and as a strategy.
7. This process includes any devices that are considered to be Durable Medical Equipment, including high tech devices that need a letter of justification that goes through an independent vendor.

Why is it important to document AT on the IFSP?

- It assures the entire IFSP team is on the same page with the AT being used by the child and family, and how, when and where it is being used.
- It clarifies how the AT helps the child achieve outcomes.
- It assures delivery and funding of AT services and devices.
- It assures proper transitioning of AT from EI to public school services.
- It meets federal requirements for documenting AT, which is one of the 15 allowable EI services under IDEA.



Questions?

- Talk with your service coordinator or program manager.
- Talk with an AT consultant. Your program manager can connect you.
- For questions about documenting AT services or devices on the IFSP, refer to The [IFSP Quick Guide](#).

For more help or information contact us at:

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