

# Information for Children/Youth and Families Regarding Adaptive and Assistive Technology

## What is Adaptive and Assistive Technology (AT)?

AT is equipment or systems that make life easier for you and your child. AT can help your child control their environment, communicate, and even play.

**Examples of AT** include but are not limited to: positioning and mobility supports, communication devices, computer accessibility, home automation devices, and adaptive recreational equipment.

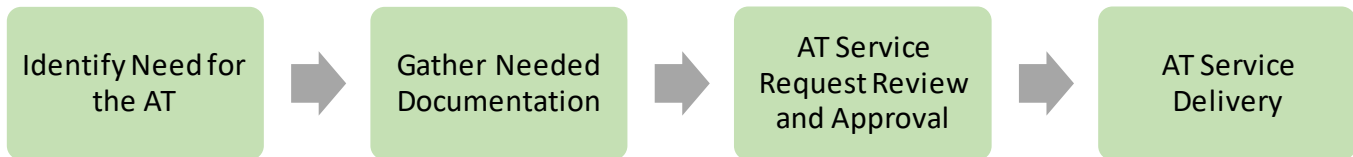
## Who is Eligible for AT?

- ✓ Children and youth up to the age of 21 years old,
- ✓ Must be enrolled in Medicaid,
- ✓ Must be eligible for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS),
- ✓ Must be enrolled in the Children's Waiver, **and**
- ✓ Must have a medical need for AT

### What is the fiscal responsibility of the parent/guardian?

The parent/guardian is **not** fiscally responsible for any approved AT project costs.

## What is the Request Process?



- Your Care Manager will assist your child and family with the request process.

### WHAT IS NEEDED:

- Determine the need for a specific AT.
- Update your child's Plan of Care to reflect their need for the medically necessary AT service.
- Obtain a Physician's Order explaining the medical need for the AT from your child's doctor.
- In some cases, a Clinical Justification is required (i.e., a written letter from your child's therapist explaining how the requested AT will assist your child in obtaining their goals).
- If any documentation is missing when the request is submitted, project approval could be delayed.

### What do I do if my family determines that we're unable to go through with the requested AT?

Contact your Care Manager immediately and notify them of your decision to withdraw your request.

If you decide to re-open your application at a later date, updated information/assessments may be required.

- The Care Manager will work with your family to obtain necessary medical documentation along with any required evaluations.
- The Care Manager will submit all required documents for review.

- Once reviewed, you will receive a Notice of Decision (NOD) that informs you whether your request has been approved or denied.
- If denied, the NOD will include information on your right to seek a Fair Rights Hearing.

## Role of the Parent/Guardian

Your primary role as a parent/guardian is to advocate for the needs of your child. You have the best knowledge of the day-to-day needs of your child and have a better understanding of what types of support will work best for your child and family. Please collaborate with your Care Manager on the AT request process.

When selecting AT, consider the long-term needs of your child. As your child grows, their needs may change, and they may require different equipment and/or supplies.

Once an AT request is approved, any changes to the approved request must receive **prior approval** from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) or risk nonpayment. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to contact your Care Manager if any changes to AT are needed or requested.

*Parents/Guardians do not have authority to authorize changes to previously approved projects, otherwise the parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost.*

## Are there Items/Equipment that Cannot be Requested?

Examples of items that cannot be requested under the Children's Waiver include but are not limited to: Devices that are considered experimental, ongoing care and maintenance of service animals (e.g. food, veterinarian services, etc.), and entertainment or recreational equipment/technology not specifically addressing and/or adapted for an assessed need in the Plan of Care.

Equipment and devices classified as **Durable Medical Equipment (DME)** cannot be obtained through a Children's Waiver AT request. Medicaid is the payor of last resort. Any AT requests that may be covered by another party will be denied (insurance, school district, etc.). More information on Durable Medical Equipment (DME) can be found in the DME Manual located at, <https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/DME/index.aspx>

### **What do I do if my request for DME is denied?**

If your DME request is denied, you and your family should pursue all available avenues which may include an appeal or a Fair Rights Hearing.

*Items classified as DME **MUST** be pursued through the designated DME process.*

### **Can I submit the item as an AT request? What should I do next?**

Please work with your care manager, as it may be possible to submit an AT request from the Children's Waiver if the item is not classified as DME or funded by another resource.

*The Children's Waiver is not an alternative funding source for AT that has been determined to be DME or denied by other Medicaid funding sources due to justifiable cause.*

### **Items NOT Covered or Need Consideration:**

- ❖ *The cost of maintenance and repairs due to normal wear and tear on AT are your responsibility.*
- ❖ *Service contracts are not provided under the Children's Waiver.*
- ❖ *Prior authorization of repairs or replacement of nonfunctioning AT is decided on a case-by-case basis by NYSDOH.*
- ❖ *Upgrades to AT that are necessary for functional use may be considered on a case-by-case basis and require prior approval by NYSDOH.*

### **Who do I contact if I have questions?**

You can reach out to your Care Manager **OR**

You can speak to someone at NYSDOH by email: [EModVModAT@health.ny.gov](mailto:EModVModAT@health.ny.gov) or by phone: 518-473-5569