



ODP-BSASP-Adult Autism Waiver Assistive Technology Service Snapshot



WHY CONSIDER ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY?

Assistive Technology (AT) enables individuals to be safer, more independent, more productive, and more integrated in their communities. AT reduces or eliminates reliance on paid or natural supports. This increases consistency and decreases problems that occur with human supports. Many technology options today are discreet, allowing individuals to interact with their peers with minimally invasive support.



HOW TO SELECT ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

Identify Goals



- What does the individual want to be able to do?
- Is there a specific need he or she wants to address?
- What safety risks does the individual face?
- What does the individual rely on other to do for him or her?

Identify Needs



- What help does the individual need to achieve his or her goals?
- What abilities or tools would reduce risk?
- What would enable more independence for the individual?

Identify Technology



- What tools can do what the individual needs?
- What tools support abilities or reduce identified risks?
- What tools enable the abilities the individual needs?

Assistive Technology is an item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve a participant's functioning or increase a participant's ability to exercise choice and control.

Examples of AT:

Medication dispensers

Flashing alarms

Watches and electronic alert bracelets

Adaptive keyboards

Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices

Digital recorders

Cognitive aids, such as software or applications

iPads and tablets



WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN OBTAINING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

- ❖ Whether the style of the device is age appropriate for the individual
- ❖ Whether the technology is exclusively for the use and benefit of the individual
- ❖ Whether the tool is the most suitable and affordable option
- ❖ Whether the tool is the easiest option for the individual to learn
- ❖ If the item can be tried first to see if it works for the individual. Refer to the [Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Lending Library](#).



HOW TO OBTAIN ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

1. Assess the Need:

- Identify the necessary technology;
- Determine whether other sources of funding, such as Medical Assistance, will pay for the item. Document inquiries and outcomes in the SC service notes;
- Alert BSASP to the need if any single item costs more than \$750 and therefore requires an evaluation.

2. Obtain the Evaluation (if required) and Invoice:

- If any single item is costs more than \$750, obtain the required formal evaluation. If beneficial to the participant, an evaluation can also be completed for items under \$750. If you are unsure how to obtain an evaluation, contact BSASP;
- Inform an AT provider what technology is desired. The provider then typically determines the source and price of the item and produces an invoice;
- Obtain an invoice from the provider. If an evaluation was performed, the cost of the evaluation should be included in the invoice. The invoice may be submitted to BSASP either before or at the same time as the critical revision to add the service.

3. Submit the Invoice and ISP Changes:

- If an evaluation was performed, enter the outcomes in the ISP in Other Non-Medical Evaluations;
- Enter the Assistive Technology service, typically for 30 days, and manually enter the cost of the total invoice;
- BSASP will approve or deny the request or may request additional information.

4. Obtain the Device:

- Only after BSASP has authorized the service, the provider obtains the item(s).
- Once the device has been obtained, the provider bills PROMISe for the total cost outlined in the invoice.

5. Monitor the Use of the Device:

- Ensure the individual receives support to use the device;
- Regularly monitor to make sure the device is working properly and still meeting the participant's needs.