Maine CITE Webinar: Resources in Maine for AAC Evaluations

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This event took place on February 4, 2016. The recording is archived on the Maine CITE Training website
http://mainecite.org/training/webinar-resources-in-maine-for-aac-evaluations/

Maine CITE
Maine CITE: Maine Department of Education and funded by the federal Administration for Community Living.

Maine CITE delivers services through the Maine CITE Coordinating Center

DEMO/LOAN program: AT equipment to partnering agencies

AAC and Maine CITE Partners

- Pine Tree Society
- Spurwink ALLTECH
- University of Maine at Farmington Kalikow Curriculum Materials Center
- http://mainecite.org/partners/

Vocabulary and Acronyms:

AAC: Augmentative Alternative Communication Device

ACD: Augmentative Communication Device

SGD: Speech Generating Device

DME: Durable Medical Equipment

Insurers use “E-codes” to classify the different types of SGDs—recorded voice only, computerized (synthesized voice), touch screen only, touch screen and switches=multiple access methods. Ex: E-2510

Funding AAC/SGD Evaluations:

- IDEA, ADA, Section 504 of Rehab. Act
- Private Insurance
Getting SGDs: MaineCare / Medicare
- Will NOT purchase SGD if currently in Hospital, hospice, nursing facility
- OK= home, group home, assisted living facility

Highlights of Funding Through Insurers:
Evaluators, device manufacturers have comprehensive lists and forms needed for funding packets. Highlights of special items to keep in mind for different funding options in Maine.

MaineCare (Maine Medicaid)
- Comprehensive Assessment by SLP: physical, and access, cognition, language; Rule out at least 3 other devices
- 4+ week trial
  - OT support of Access Method
  - PT support as well if needed in their domain area
- Plan of Care, Plan of Service
- Doctor:
  - See Client within the last 6 months
  - Agree with Eval, LMN, RX, Interqual Smartsheet

Getting a Device for the MaineCare 4+ Week Trial
- Demo/Loan programs (MaineCite, Device Companies)
- MaineCare/Insurance will fund rentals
  - Submit similar funding paperwork requesting rental
- Collect Data
- Re-submit for full purchase after trial

MaineCare: Keep in mind
- Full evaluations by OT, Psychology, Vision, Hearing are no longer required
  - May be requested in a deferral
- 5-year rule: does not apply. Primary insurance may use this rule, though.
- Updates/upgrades ≠ justification
Must thoroughly defend the need for a new device due to system failings, non-repairable, features on new device that are now necessary for use.

**Medicare**

- Local Coverage Determination
  - Documentation & criteria needed
  - RMRP = Regional Medical Review Policy: lists the SLP assessment and reporting requirements to support a Medicare claim for an SGD, SGD software and/or accessories
- SGD Eval 6 months or newer
  - within 6 months of getting the device.
- Doctor exam: 6 months or newer prior to the SGD order.
  - Doctor exam: face-to-face examination with their physician no more than 6 months prior to the written order for the Speech Generating Device (SGD). The physician must document that the beneficiary was evaluated and/or treated for a condition that supports the SGD. This documentation must be provided along with the CMN.
- Certificate of Medical Need
- SLP financial independence
- Report requirements/wording: Rule out device and access alternatives. At least 3, but often do more to support need.
- No 4-week trial
- 5-year rule does apply
- Capped Rental Ended Oct 1, 2015
  - “Steve Gleason Act” : Gleason Initiative Foundation, ASHA, and legislative action to eliminate the capped rental program
  - From Tobii DynaVox : “If your device was funded by Medicare prior to October 1, 2015 and is currently being rented by Medicare, you can request that Medicare purchase your SGD...There are significant benefits to purchasing your device such as knowing you can keep your device if you are admitted to a Skilled Nursing Facility or require hospice care, which under those types of care, Medicare would not continue to rent the device on your behalf.”
Private Insurance
- Policy coverage: DME, SGD
  - Deductibles; 80/20 coverage?
  - Can discuss remaining balance with company before accepting shipment
- Eval Requirements—often follow Medicare policy, but can vary.
- Covered procedures: important to know coverage
- Covered device categories (E-codes)

Maine AT Waiver Programs
- Waiver Sections 18, 19, 20, 21, & 29
  - 18 TBI
  - 19 Elderly and AWD
  - 20 ORC
  - 21 ID and Autism
  - 29 community supports
- Reports: explain need, chosen tool(s). Not as extensive as Medicare/MaineCare needs.
  - Link to “Maine Home and Community-based Waivers – AT Comparison Chart” by Kelley McTague – revised January 2016 - PDF
- Coverage, money available, credentials differ for each waiver section
- Case managers have been extremely helpful in accessing waiver funding and working through the process

Non-Insurance Funding Options
- Private pay
- Schools --- CDS and Special Ed
- The Robbie Foundation (children only)
- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Putting The Pieces Together (Autism Specific) : dissolved in Sept 2015. all funds disseminated, applications shredded.

Additional Costs
- Dedicated vs. Non-Dedicated
- Lock/Unlock
- Warranties
- Repairs
  - Warranty
  - Insurance-funded (LMN, RX, forms)

**Eval Prep: Team Conversations**
- Questions, Needs, Desires
  - Therapy? Eval? Programming current device?
- High or low tech: pros and cons
- Funding options/preferences

**Eval Prep: Client Skills**
- Receptive Language skills: Breadth & depth of vocabulary
- Expressive language: syntax
- Navigational skills
- Motor/access skills
- Learning strengths/preferences
- Reinforcing tasks/activities
- User preferences

**For More Information**
- Maine CITE
- Pine Tree Society
- Prentke Romich Webinars: Funding
- Tobii-DynaVox Funding FAQs
- AAC-RERC
- ASHA
- AACfundinghelp.com
• AAC Institute