



# Assistive Technology



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**Objective: To Ensure Effective Solutions  
for Infants & Toddlers Who Require  
Assistive Technology To Support Their  
Development**



# Planning for Assistive Technology



# Processes that Work

- The need for assistive technology must be determined by the IFSP team (See PHOG 6.1.2)
- Specialists such as Local Assistive Technology Specialists (LATS) can help the team to consider options that work including low tech, low cost alternatives. (PHOG 6.4.4, guidance)



## Processes that Work (continued)

- An assistive technology assessment (ATEN) is always required. (PHOG 6.4.2)
- Recommendations from the assistive technology assessment must include needed services, supports and devices determined by the IFSP team to assist the child to achieve an identified outcome. (PHOG 6.4.4)



# Planning is KEY

- The IFSP should order assistive technology devices well in advance of the child's third birthday to ensure that the item will be available in time for the child/family to benefit from other early intervention services which end by age three. (PHOG 6.4.8, guidance)
- The assistive technology assessment is recommended and conducted by the IFSP team and should not occur outside of the IFSP process. (PHOG 6.4.1, 6.4.2)



# Planning is KEY

- The assistive technology assessment must be completed prior to the purchase of the equipment by the IFSP “TEAM” (PHOG 6.4.1)
- The IFSP team must include at least one of the following for children needing a assistive technology assessment: audiologist, LATS, OT, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, PT, SLP (PHOG Policy 6.4.3). They may serve short term with the team! (PHOG 6.4.2, guidance)
- Hearing aids and (frequency modulation) FM systems are recommended by the audiologist (PHOG 6.4.6 guidance)



# How Decisions are Made

- Recommendations should not be driven by technology and should consider the use of low-cost alternatives.  
(See PHOG 6.4.4, guidance)

\*\*For example, a laundry basket may be used as a seating device in the bathtub



# Payment Considerations

- Medicaid and TPIN and loaners **FIRST**
- Local Early Steps and CMS work together for equipment covered by **Medicaid**.
- The following are needed by **Medicaid**:
  - prescription
  - letter of medical necessity (M.D. or therapist)
  - assistive technology report



# Payment Considerations

- Equipment is purchased through the local CMS office (or through agreement between the LES and local CMS to ensure CMS negotiated vendor rates, 80% of cost to general public) (See PHOG Policy 6.4.5)
- Equipment is not ordered directly from a vendor **UNLESS** it is less costly than ordering through CMS and must follow your LES procedures. (See PHOG Policy 6.4.6)



# Payment Considerations

- The usual and customary charge is often the list price or catalog price.
- For items not listed in Medicaid's Durable Medical Equipment Handbook, the manufacturer's suggested retail price is used as the usual and customary charge. (See PHOG 6.4.6, guidance)



## Lending of Assistive Technology

- LES must have procedures regarding the lending of assistive technology devices that include guidelines regarding the family's ability to retain a borrowed device for a time after the child turns 36 months of age. (See PHOG 6.4.9, guidance)
- LES may encourage families to donate unwanted items as children grow out of them. May put stickers on items as a reminder.



# Transfer of a Transitioning Child includes Assistive Technology

- An assistive technology device authorized on the IFSP and purchased for a specific child automatically transfers with the child when transitioning.
- The Assistive Technology Brochure Insert may be used to inform families of their right to request that an assistive technology device be transferred with the child when transitioning; or the LES may create a document to serve this purpose. (PHOG 6.4.11, guidance)



# Transfer of a Transitioning Child includes Assistive Technology

- Request for Transfer of Assistive Technology form may be used to request transfer of device.
- Certification of Assistive Technology Transfer Decision form may be used to acknowledge receipt or notify the requestor of approval or denial to transfer.
- LES may create their local forms  
(See PHOG 6.4.12; 6.4.13; 6.4.14, guidance)



# Questions?



**Thank you!**

