




## ASHA CEUs

### Information and Notes Pages

#### **“Medical Necessity for AAC: Efficient Documentation for Success”**

APPROVED PROVIDER



ASHA  
CONTINUING  
EDUCATION  
AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING ASSOCIATION

LingraphiCARE America is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This course is offered for 0.1 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area).

## Complete a 0.1 ASHA CEU Course

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are invited to participate in a one-hour ASHA-approved course offering, "Medical Necessity for AAC: Efficient Documentation for Success" To be eligible to receive 0.1 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level), please see the guidelines below.

For more information about ASHA's most up-to-date eligibility criteria, go to the FAQ section of the ASHA CE website: <http://www.asha.org/CE/FAQs/>.

### Course Description:

This course provided information dispelling common myths that may contribute to obstacles an SLP faces when initiating the process of introducing, trialing, documenting medical necessity and recommending an AAC device. It further introduced the learner to Lingraphica's support systems and resources to make this process run more simply and efficiently.

### Learning Outcomes:

By completing this course, participants will be able to:

1. Define medical necessity requirements per Medicare guidelines for the recommendation of an AAC device
2. Describe examples of simple, concise documentation of AAC treatment in therapy notes and device recommendation reports
3. Discuss simple strategies for documenting medical necessity of AAC in any setting, along the continuum of care

### Processing:

Online course completions are reported to ASHA quarterly. Please allow eight to ten weeks for processing. Lingraphica will issue a certificate of participation to each SLP who completes a CEU course.

For more information, or to start a device trial, contact: [continuinged@lingraphica.com](mailto:continuinged@lingraphica.com)

## Medical Necessity for AAC: Efficient Documentation for Success

Your Webinar Leaders:  
Mary Anne Lang, RN, MSN, Marketing Manager  
Faye Stillman, MS, CCC-SLP/ATP  
Twylah Campbell, MS, CCC-SLP, TSSLD  
Melissa Raduns, Reimbursement Manager



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### Today's Presentation

- 1-hour
- "Chat" feature
- Raise your hand!
- Phone & audio lines
- Technology issues



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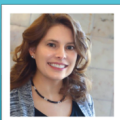
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## CE Course Info, AAC Myths and Case Studies



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CE Manager  
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## Financial Disclosures

Each of the presenters of today's CE course are full-time, salaried employees of Lingraphica, and thereby receive financial compensation from the Lingraphica Company



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## Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Define medical necessity requirements per Medicare guidelines for the recommendation of an AAC device
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## Agenda

- Addressing common barriers to AAC with clinical experience and research
- Introducing AAC device trials in an inpatient setting and across the care continuum
- Medical record documentation requirements for medical necessity
- Alternative funding options
- Denials and appeals



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Barriers to AAC



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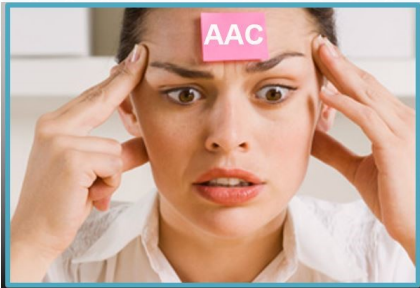
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Common Myths About AAC

Introducing, trialing and recommending an AAC device is a complicated and time-consuming process!





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Common Myths About AAC

AAC should only be considered as a last resort!

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Common Myths About AAC

AAC will slow – or prevent – the use of natural speech!

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AAC Case Studies

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## Trials Along the Continuum of Care



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## Documentation of Medical Necessity



**Twylah Campbell, MS, CCC-SLP, TSSLD**  
Documentation Specialist



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## A Complete Submission Packet


Patient Forms

- Assignment of Benefits
- Authorization to Release PHI
- Appointment of Representative
- Personal Interest Form (optional)

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SLP Forms

- Order Form
- SGD Evaluation
- Speech Therapy Notes



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## GRS Job Aide: ST AAC Evaluation for SGD

- Rehab Central location
- Developed in coordination with Lingraphica, to ensure accurate and complete documentation of medical necessity.
- Includes focus areas and examples of documentation:

***"Diagnostic Impression (example): Patient demonstrates moderate- severe motor speech deficits which reduce her ability to effectively communicate her medical and social needs to her caregivers."***

Questions? Ask your Lingraphica SLP Clinical Consultant! Your DS too!



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## Medical Necessity Documentation

<http://www.aphasia.com/device-funding-documents/>

- LG Funding Website
- SLP docs must speak volumes!
  - SGD evaluation
  - Speech therapy notes



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## Medical Necessity Documentation

Key Requirements of Documenting Medical Necessity:

- Emphasis on severity
- Fill in all sections & keep key patient info handy (e.g. trial start & end dates, diagnosis)
- Be descriptive! (1 - 2 sentences)
- Don't just say "non-verbal"
- Sign and date everything
- ***Refer to GRS Job Aide: "ST AAC Evaluation for SGD"***



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Samples

Speech-Generating Device Evaluation

Patient: Sample

Begin Date of Eval./Trial: Jan 1, 2018

End Date of Eval./Trial: Jan 24, 2018

I. CURRENT COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT

Medical Condition/Diagnosis causing the expressive speech impairment (e.g. CVA, TBI, Parkinson's Disease, ALS, etc.)

Date of Onset:

CVA

Feb 4, 2015

Spoken Language Expression:

Severe impairment resulting in frequent breakdowns. Due to aphasia, patient cannot find words for effective communication. Speech is telegraphic. Patient is aware of communication breakdown but cannot effectively self-correct due to severe anomia. Patient has empty speech.

Natural Speech:

Severe impairment resulting in inability to make needs known, gather info, express medical information. Natural speech is not adequate for functional communication.

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Samples (cont'd)

Primary Communication Impairment (e.g. Aphasia, Dysarthria, Dysphonia, Apraxia)

Aphasia

Primary Communication Impairment Severity Note: Must exhibit at least Moderate-Severe impairment for a speech-generating device to be considered medically necessary.

Severe

Secondary Communication Impairment (e.g. Aphasia, Dysarthria, Dysphonia, Apraxia)

Apraxia

Secondary Communication Impairment Severity

Moderate-Severe

Primary Communication Impairment (e.g. Aphasia, Dysarthria, Dysphonia, Apraxia)

Primary Communication Impairment Severity

Note: Must exhibit at least Moderate-Severe impairment for a speech-generating device to be considered medically necessary.

I. CURRENT COMMUNICATION IMPAIRMENT

Medical Condition/Diagnosis causing the expressive speech impairment (e.g. CVA, TBI, Parkinson's Disease, ALS, etc.)

Date of Onset:

Primary Progressive Aphasia

Primary Communication Impairment (e.g. Aphasia, Dysarthria, Dysphonia, Apraxia)

Aphasia

Primary Communication Impairment Severity

Moderate

Note: Must exhibit at least Moderate-Severe impairment for a speech-generating device to be considered medically necessary.

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Samples (cont'd)

VI. RATIONALE FOR SELECTION OF DEVICE OR ACCESSORIES (SIZE, WEIGHT, VOCABULARY, EASE OF USE, PORTABILITY, USER-FRIENDLINESS, AGE APPROPRIATE, PATIENT-SPECIFIC CUSTOMIZATION, ETC.)

High tech AAC considered & ruled out

Tobii DynavoxT10, PRC Accent 1000, Lingraphica AllTalk

Reason(s) why

TB0T10: Not as intuitive for patient and caregiver. Uses core words which are confusing to the patient. PRC Accent 1000 uses Unity Language which is too difficult to learn. The patient needs icons that are less abstract and that are easily understood. Lingraphica AllTalk: size and weight makes transfer of SGD from one setting to another difficult.

No-tech/low-tech AAC ruled out

Communication Board


Reason(s) why

Too limiting: no voice output; cumbersome to carry; too hard to customize

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Lingraphica Documentation Specialists



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Funding, Reimbursement,  
& Financial Support



Melissa Raduns  
Reimbursement Manager

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Medicare Requirements

7 criteria required for Medicare reimbursement of SGD:

1. Repeated use
2. 3-year life expectancy of device
3. Primarily for a medical purpose
4. Not otherwise useful
5. Appropriate for home use
6. Limited to use with mod-severe speech impairment
7. Primarily for generating speech



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## What Isn't Covered?

- Non-dedicated (running other software)
- Non-medical computer or hand-held device
- Useful without speech impairment (mod-severe)
- Claims for more than one SGD

*Reasonable & Necessary*



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## Denials & Appeals

**DENIED**



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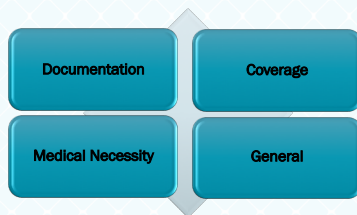
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## Common Claim Denials



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Now What?

Notify the provider

Contact the insurance company

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Lingraphica Denial Process

Obtain detailed explanation

Re-submit claim & follow up

Appeal, appeal, appeal!

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Lingraphica's Process

Pre-trial benefit check

SLP trial

Documentation

Authorization

Post-trial benefit check

Patient receives device

Reimbursement

Customer Support

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## The Lingraphica Difference

- We are mission-based
- We will not remove a device for financial reasons
- Financial assistance
- Alternate funding sources



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## Genesis SLP Feedback



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*"I had a very positive experience working with Lingraphica and really appreciate all of the assistance I received, as this was my first time working through the process of helping a patient get a speech-generating device."*

Jacob Wetters, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Genetech Rehab Services at Dunlop House  
Virginia



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*"I had an amazing experience working with Lingraphica and training a woman with a device; working with this patient has been one of the most rewarding and wonderful experiences I've had as a speech therapist."*

Elizabeth O'Leary, M.A., CCC-SLP  
 Troy Hills Center/SNP  
 Victoria Mews ALP  
 New Jersey

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Questions & Answers

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Receive Credit for Today's Presentation

To receive ASHA CEUs and/or your Certificate of Completion, please complete and pass the learning assessment and course evaluation.

Completions of online courses are reported to ASHA on a quarterly-basis.



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References

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