



DYSPHONIA INTERNATIONAL

Considerations for Choosing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices

DETERMINING THE TYPE OF AAC

Vocal Challenge/Obstacle

- My voice is too quiet.
- My speech is difficult to understand.
- I am unable to speak long enough to convey my message.
- It is too painful or difficult to speak.

Situation

- One-on-one conversation
- Small group
- Prepared presentation
- Phone call
- Virtual meeting
- Group instruction
- Voice-dependent devices and applications

Environment

- Inside
- Outside
- Crowded
- Noisy

Additional Considerations

- Privacy concerns
- Increased volume would disturb others
- Listener does not hear well
- Listener is not near

EVALUATING THE DEVICE

Use

- Will it help me communicate more efficiently?
- Will it improve my quality of life?
- How do I feel about using the device?
- Will I use the device?

Cost

- What is the purchase price for the device?
- Is it eligible for coverage through Medicare or private insurance?
- What steps are necessary to gain coverage?
- What other funding sources are available?
- Am I able to trial the device before purchasing?
- How, when, and with whom will I test it?

Device Features

- Will the device work well for my purpose?
- What are the shortcomings?
- How will I work with the shortcomings?
- Will the device work well in my situation and environment?
- Is it convenient to use, transport, and store?
- Is there a low-tech option that will work?