



## Clinical Review Criteria Related to Speech Generating Devices

### I. Criteria for Approval

A. MHI considers SGDs to be medically necessary when they meet the following criteria:

1. The individual has permanent and severe expressive speech impairment such as dysarthria, anarthria, aphasia, or aphonia.
2. A formal speech evaluation has been conducted by an ASHA certified Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) of member's cognitive and communication abilities which include the following:
  - a. Description of the current communication impairment, including type of severity, language skills, cognitive ability and anticipated course of treatment.
  - b. Assessment of whether the individual's daily communication needs could be met using other natural modes of communication.
  - c. Description of the functional communication goals expected and treatment option.
  - d. Rationale for selection of the specific device.
3. Demonstration that the member has a treatment plan which includes training of the specific device and has the cognitive/physical abilities to effectively use the selected device and accessories to communicate.
4. A copy of the SLP's written evaluation and recommendations has been forwarded to the member's treating physician prior to ordering the device.
5. Other forms of treatment that have failed and/or are contraindicated.
6. A speech generating device is available in the individual's primary language and is being requested for the sole purpose of speech generation.
7. If an upgrade is requested, clinical information will be required regarding the functional benefit to the member compared to the initial SGD provided.

### II. Required Documentation

A. SLP written evaluation and recommendation.

### III. What is Not Covered:

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- A. If one or more of the coverage criteria are not met, the SGD will be denied as not medically necessary.
- B. Laptop computers, desktop computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA), I Pads or other devices that are not dedicated SGDs are not covered because they do not meet the definition of durable medical equipment.
- C. Software (E2511) that enables a laptop computer, desktop computer or PDA to function as an SGD is covered as an SGD. Installation or technical support must not be billed separately
- D. If the individual needs additional accessories to use the device, then the medical necessity of each accessory must be clearly documented within the evaluation.

HCPC Codes:

- E2500 Speech generating device, digitized speech, using the pre-recorded messages, less than or equal to 8 minutes recording time.
- E2502 Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages greater than 8 minutes but less than or equal to 20 minutes recording time
- E2504 Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages greater than 20 minutes but less than or equal to 40 minutes recording time.
- E2506 Speech generating device, digitized speech, using pre-recorded messages greater than 40 minutes recording time.
- E2508 Speech generating device, synthesized speech, requiring message formulation by spelling and access by physical contact with the device
- E2510 Speech generating device, synthesized speech, permitting multiple methods of message formulation and multiple methods of device access
- E2511 Speech generating software program for personal computer or PDA
- E2512 Accessory for speech generating device, mounting system

**References:**

NCQA Standard, UM 2, Clinical Criteria for Utilization Management Decisions, Element A

Centers for Medicare& Medicaid Services; National Coverage Determination (NCD and LCD) for Speech Generating Devices. L11534

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Winifred S. Hayes, Inc., Speech-Generating Devices for treatment of Dysarthria, October, Updated 10/3/10.

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