



# Therapy Assessment and Service



# Training Objectives:

1. Review LLTS PT's assessment and service areas.
2. Discuss how LLTS PT's equipment assessment and service differs from other PT providers.





# LLTS PT's Assessments:

To help individuals remain living in or return to their home, through:

- Advocacy for individual and family
- Education and Training
- Durable medical equipment (DME) assessment
- Home modifications assessment (accessibility issues and safety needs)



# **Durable Medical Equipment DME Assessments**



# DME Defined

DME is primarily used to serve a therapeutic purpose.

DME can be standard or complex rehab.

Standard may have some adjustable features (eg height adjustable shower chair) but not custom fitted to person.

LLTS therapists have vast experience with both standard and complex options.

## DME Defined (cont'd)

- ◆ DME may be allocated a medical or HCPC code. This affords eligibility to be considered for Medicare, MA, or private insurance coverage WITH qualifying criterion met.
- ◆ DME can only be replaced every 3-5 years in most cases, under same-and-similar criterion.
- ◆ If there is a change in medical condition, requiring new devices and/or components, that may be considered sooner than 3-5 years.



# DME and Insurance coverage

Medicare/MA may consider funding for devices such as: canes, walkers, manual and power wheelchairs, scooters, hospital beds, lift chairs, person lifts, toilet seat risers, standers, adaptive car seats, activity chairs, and certain bath/ shower chairs.

Medicare/MA do not typically cover items such as: reachers, bedrails, bed wedges, car safety handles, shower wands, bath bench with sliding seat, cup holders, walker bags, wheeled carts, transfer poles, exercise equipment, adaptive bikes, or all terrain PWC's and scooters.

# What should a case manager do if DME is needed ?

Is the person replacing their non complex DME (current walker, cane, standard bath chair, lift chair)?

Yes -> Person needs physician prescription for new or replacement item.

Physician may have medical company they refer to or case manager can help and fax prescription to local company.

Does the person need a new or replacement complex DME? Can outpatient physical therapy services meet the need? Can the person go to a clinic?

Yes-> Then a refer to a clinic may be appropriate.

No-> Then consider a referral to LLTS.



# Reasons to refer to LLTS for DME assessment

- The individual does not use DME and unsure what they might need now.
- The need is complex or unique.
- The individual cannot leave their home or lacks access to consistent transportation.
- The DME item is not eligible for insurance coverage.
- Matching the DME to the home environment or future home modification is a concern.
- Follow through by the individual is a concern.

# LLTS Approach to DME Assessments

DME assessment and equipment trials usually occurs in the home setting with emphasis on independence with daily living tasks and mobility-related ADL's.

DME assessments are person centered (match the equipment to the person, caregiver support, and living situation).





# LLTS Approach to DME Assessments (cont'd 2)

We have knowledge of equipment throughout the lifespan (children to the elderly) with mild to severe disability levels.

We have knowledge of new and innovative equipment.

We team with a variety of medical suppliers across MN.



# LLTS Approach to DME Assessments (cont'd 3)

We follow equipment through the insurance or waiver consideration process.

We coordinate with waiver for equipment not covered by insurance.

We consider whether equipment meets a need when doing a home modification assessment.



THE  
SOLUTION



# John's Story

Assessment: John has a diagnosis of a traumatic brain injury. He was referred to LLTS for an assessment to improve his safety when bathing.

Service: Trial a Tub Buddy shower transfer system.

Lesson: Shower transfer system was ordered. This allowed him to shower safely and it eliminated the need for a home modification.



LLTS  
THERAPY  
SOLUTIONS

# Shower Transfer System

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# Joyce's Story

Assessment/Need: Joyce has a diagnosis of a MS. Due to decreased head control, she is no longer able to drive her power wheelchair using a chin drive system.

Service: Trial a power wheelchair using eye gaze system to drive her power wheelchair.

Lesson: She required more training from the DME provider to use the power wheelchair, resulting in her feeling comfortable driving.



THE THERAPY  
SOLUTIONS

# Eye gaze driving device

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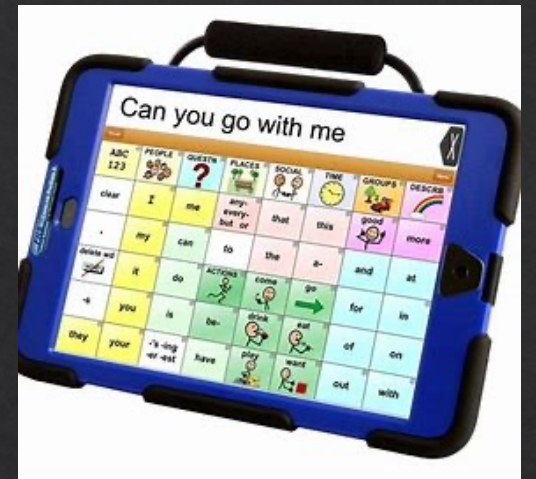


# Speech and OT DME:

Speech Generating Devices: known as communication or Alternative and Augmentative Communication systems.

Obi Feeder: a device that a person can use to feed themselves independently once it is set up.

Robotic Arm: A device attached to a wheelchair that uses switch control to work as a robotic arm to pick up things, to feed oneself for example.



THERAPY  
SOLUTIONS

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# Importance of Training





## Lack of Proper Training

May discourage DME acceptance.

May discourage DME use and lead to safety issues.

# Training Strategies

In person training is provided by the Medical Supply Company when the new equipment is delivered or installed.

We check in with the individual to see if he/she and his/her caregivers feel comfortable and safe using the equipment after the delivery.

When additional training is needed, we will develop a plan to address the training need.



THERAPY  
SOLUTIONS



# Training Strategies: Examples

- LLTS requests the DME company provides further in person training.
- LLTS therapist develops a picture or video program, detailing education for person and family/caregivers.

LLTS therapist provides in person, short term training on a specific skill.

LLTS recommends referral to in home or outpatient therapy for long term training (this is rarely needed.)



THE  
SOLUTION



# Annie's Story

**Assessment:** Annie is 15 years old and diagnosed with progressive neurological decline. She received a Rifton Activity chair, which elevates, tilts, and reclines through different levers. Despite training at time of delivery, her parents were not sure how to use these features.

**Service:** The LLTS PT created a picture training program.

**Lesson:** Her parents/caregivers were independent in using the Rifton Activity chair with the picture program.



# Rifton Activity Chair

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# Sam's Story

Assessment/Need: Sam has a diagnosis of a spinal cord injury. He has pain and fatigue when propelling longer distances with his manual wheelchair.

Service: Trial with a Smart Drive (wheeled motor that attaches to the wheelchair). Training from LLTS PT and DME provider regarding how to use the smart drive device and safety issues. Video program was created by the PT.

Lesson: Video program helped him to successfully use the Smart Drive device.





# Smart Drive

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Advocating for the needs  
of the individual is our focus.



# David's Story

Assessment: David has cerebral palsy, and he lives on a farm with his parents. David lacked a means of independent mobility.

Service: A power wheelchair was tried with David along with the Luci system (a safety system). David was able to drive the power wheelchair independently in wide open spaces. Based on that skill level, the power wheelchair and Luci system were submitted to insurance and approved.

## David's story (Cont.)

Impact: David's mother reports on how the power wheelchair has improved the quality of their lives. David goes for "walks" with them, rides "bikes" with his cousins, gets the mail, etc. She further reports that given all of his progress, David was transitioning into driving inside his home independently!



# Thank You!

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# DME Resources



# Lift Chairs

## ◆ Home Considerations

- ▣ Need a floor space at least 2-3 feet long and away from a wall where the chair can recline
  - ▣ Need an electrical outlet nearby, to plug in the chair, but where the cord won't be in a walkway and be a tripping hazard.
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- ◆ Doctor's prescription is needed. A letter of medical necessity by a therapist is Not needed.
  - ◆ If individual is truly home bound, LLTS can assist with measurements and doctor prescription request.

# Lift Chairs

- ◆ If individual can visit a showroom (with family, PCA, etc)... This allows for BEST results.
- ◆ Even when we take careful measurements, it is very tough to get a good fit until you sit in some chairs. Chairs are built with padding more on seat or oversized armrests, etc and that doesn't match up to measurements on paper.
- ◆ Showrooms allow trial of chair, features, remotes, scooting/sitting on various upholstery, and see color options.
- ◆ Showrooms are open to the public Mon-Fri at several Twin Cities locations, including Reliable Medical, APA Medical, and Total Medical.
- ◆ (Verbal note\_ handi not acc ins, only private pay)



# Lift Chairs

- ◆ 1) Visit a showroom, talk to the company's staff and try the chairs. They can help you select a lift chair that's covered by insurance.
  - ▢ You can start a file with selected company; let them know your insurance types and let them know you have a waiver.
  - ▢ Get a business card with their fax number, to share with your doctor.
- ◆ 2) Call your doctor. Let them know you need a prescription for a lift chair faxed to medical company AND the dr's office should expect additional forms.
- ◆ 3) The medical company will work on the paperwork, and let you know if there are any delays.

# Patient Lifts and Seat Lift Mechanisms

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_151424](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_151424)

- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, home environment, and specific needs.



# Mobility Devices

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_140901](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_140901)

- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, home environment, and specific needs.

# Ambulation Assist Equipment

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:  
[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONTENT&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_149119#auth](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONTENT&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_149119#auth)
- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, home environment, and specific needs.



# Bath and Toilet Equipment

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines: [https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_146937#BathShowerChairs](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_146937#BathShowerChairs)
- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, bathroom environment, and specific needs.

# Positioning Equipment

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_146517](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_146517)

- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, home environment, and specific needs.



# Standers

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_141946](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_141946)

- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, home environment, and specific needs.

# Pressure Reducing Support Surfaces

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines:

[https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_143060](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_143060)

- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's specific needs.



# Hospital Beds

- ◆ Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) guidelines: [https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&DocName=dhs16\\_152895](https://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&DocName=dhs16_152895)
- ◆ The device selection should be based on the person's height, weight, bedroom environment, and specific needs.