

## Augmentative Communication Devices (ACDs)

Issue Date: December 8, 2004

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(e\)\(23\)](#) and 10 USC 1077(e)(1)

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### 1.0 CPT<sup>1</sup> PROCEDURE CODES

92605, 92607, 92608, 97755, 97608

### 2.0 HCPCS PROCEDURE CODES

E2500 - E2599, and V5336

### 3.0 POLICY

**3.1** Augmentative Communication Devices (ACDs) (also referred to as Speech Generating Devices (SGDs) and medically necessary services and supplies that provide an individual who has a severe speech impairment with the ability to meet functional speaking needs are covered. ACDs/SGDs are characterized by:

**3.1.1** Being a dedicated speech device, used solely by the individual who has severe speech impairment;

**3.1.2** May have digitized speech output, using pre-recorded messages, less than or equal to eight minutes recording time;

**3.1.3** May have digitized speech output, using pre-recorded messages, greater than eight minutes recording time;

**3.1.4** May have synthesized speech output, which requires message formulation by spelling and device access by physical contact with the device-direct selection techniques;

**3.1.5** May have synthesized speech output, which permits multiple methods of message formulation and multiple methods of device access; or

**3.1.6** May be software that allows a laptop computer, desktop computer or personal digital assistant (PDA) to function as a speech generating device.

**3.2** ACDs and SGDs as defined in [32 CFR 199.2](#) are considered voice prostheses. The prosthesis provisions found at [Chapter 8, Section 4.1](#) apply.

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#### 4.0 EXCLUSIONS

Examples of devices that do not meet the above definition and are excluded from coverage as ACDs/SGDs include, but are not limited to:

**4.1** Devices that are not dedicated speech devices, but are devices that are capable of running software for purposes other than for speech generation, e.g., devices that can also run a word processing package, an accounting program, or perform other non-medical functions.

**4.2** Laptop computers, desktop computers, or Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), which may be programmed to perform the same function as a speech generating device, are non-covered since they are not primarily medical in nature and do not meet the definition of prosthetic, prosthetic device, prosthetic supply, or Durable Equipment (DE).

**4.3** Communication aids that do not generate speech are not covered. Communication aids that are not ACDs/SGDs are not considered prosthetics for speech. Examples of noncovered communication aids include the following: picture books; flashcards; Braille typewriters; Teletypewriter (TTY) devices; devices that allow the patient to communicate messages to others with writing (e.g., a display screen or printout) rather than with synthesized speech; and devices that allow the user to communicate with a computer rather than with another person. Although these devices may be useful, they do not meet the definition of an ACD/SGD, prosthetic, or DE.

**4.4** Altered auditory feedback devices are communication aids that are excluded because they are not augmentative communication devices/voice prostheses.

#### 5.0 EXCEPTION

Computer based and PDA based ACDs/SGDs are covered when they have been modified to run only ACD/SGD software.

#### 6.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2005.

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