

LETTERHEAD

(Sample Use ONLY For Education Purpose)

SAMPLE OF A NON-MEDICAL APPEAL

Appeal of Denial Decision for of (NAME OF CLIENT)

ID#:

Date of Birth

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in receipt of the enclosed letter dated (DATE OF DENIAL) which denies the request for a “Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator Speech Generating Device (SGD) with TouchChat HD with Word Power software and a protective Fintie Kiddie Case.” Please accept this letter as an appeal to that decision.

The reason given for denial, according to the denial letter, is that the device is considered to be “non-medical”. This would be true if we were requesting the non-Medical version. However, the AAC Evaluation Report and physician’s prescription clearly states that we are requesting the DEDICATED version of this SGD. The Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version has been specially configured to disable all functions of the device that do not specifically relate to and support augmentative communication, rendering it a “dedicated” device that meets Medicaid’s definition of any other manufacturer, such as (NAME OF OTHER DEVICE).

The decision to request this particular SGD followed an evaluating and trials with several augmentative communication systems by a licensed speech language pathologist and assistive technology consultant. The evaluation report was shared with her physician, who agreed that the SGD is required to treat her medical condition. As stated in the AAC Evaluation Summary dated (DATE OF EVALUATION), (NAME OF CLIENT) is a (AGE OF CLIENT) year old young women who has multiple disabilities, including moderate cognitive impairment, severe speech impairment, and Autism.

- (NAME OF CLIENT)’s receptive language skills are higher than her expressive abilities. She understands verbal directions and information related to daily routines at home and in the classroom, but cannot use speech to communicate during activities of daily living.
- (NAME OF CLIENT) is functionally nonverbal because of multiple articulation errors that make her speech attempts largely unintelligible. No amount of traditional speech language therapy will improve (NAME OF CLIENT)’s natural speech development.

The nature and severity of (NAME OF CLIENT)’s multiple diagnoses require speech language therapy treatment. Specifically, her condition of being permanently

non-speaking requires the use of a speech generating device, a recognized form of speech language treatment for individuals with severe communication impairment when they are unable to meet daily communication needs using natural communication methods. No other form of speech language therapy treatment will enable (NAME OF CLIENT) to meet daily communication needs; this is proof of medical necessity. SGDs fit the definition of Durable Medical Equipment and Prosthetic Device, because SGDs, including the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, replace a function (speech) that is permanently inoperative.

Trials with multiple SGDs and non-tech AAC systems proved that (NAME OF CLIENT) communicates most effectively with symbol-based, dynamic display device that provide voice-output. Features of the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, with TouchChat HD with Word Power software, matches (NAME OF CLIENT)'s needs:

- Screens can be adjusted from 2-25 cells – allowing for flexible programming
- Screens are backlit – easy to see in a variety of environments
- Cells can be color-coded for easier visual access
- Built-in camera – needed for personalizing vocabulary with photographs of familiar people, places, and items
- Built-in realistic symbol set – needed for visual representation of colors, verbs, and other vocabulary because (NAME OF CLIENT) cannot read
- Dynamic display, providing access to many messages, and allowing (NAME OF CLIENT) to be independent in getting to her vocabulary selections
- Voice output – needed to self-monitor her selections and to communicate with adults and peers who are not in close proximity
- Protective case with an easel stand and handle – needed to protect the device during use and transport, and to position the device for optimal visual and physical access

While other dedicated SGD have similar features, the following features in this combination are unique to the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, and cannot be found in this combination on SGDs from other manufacturers:

- Larger touch screen - needed for visual and physical access
- Slim, lightweight – needed for ease of portability
- Soft foam case with both easel and stand. This is the major advantage of the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, over a (NAME OF OTHER DEVICE) or (NAME OF OTHER DEVICE); the case, handle, and easel are far more durable on the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, reducing the chance of breakage.

Based on this clarifying information, I am respectfully asking you to reconsider your previous decision and the coverage of the Dedicated ACCI Choice Communicator version, with TouchChat HD with Word Power software and the protective Fintie Kiddie case for (NAME OF CLIENT). Should a Fair Hearing be required for this reconsideration, I would prefer a hearing by phone, but will appear in person, if that is requested by you agency.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

(NAME OF SLP), CCC-SLP

ASHA#

Phone:

Email: