

How Do I Get Started With AAC?

1



Organize the Team

In order to select a device that is appropriate for each individual's abilities and needs, it's best to work with AAC professionals.

Your team should include a **speech-language pathologist** (SLP) or AAC specialist, to determine the most appropriate device characteristics and language system. A doctor must write a prescription for the device, and can also provide you with a referral to an SLP.

Other Valuable Members Can Include:

- Occupational therapists
- Physical therapists
- Teachers
- Family members

Complete

2



Check Funding Sources

This may include:

- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Private Health Insurance/TriCare

PRC is a provider with most state Medicaid programs. We also are a Medicare provider, and work with private insurance companies.

Be sure to disclose all potential paying sources to your SLP so he/she can provide PRC with the proper state specific documentation that is required.

Some families want to call their health insurance company directly to inquire about coverage. For tips on calling your insurance company, please visit: <https://www.prentrom.com/caregivers/insurance-tips>

Complete

3



Get an Evaluation

A certified SLP is required to complete and write up the evaluation that ultimately recommends purchase or trial of a communication device.

The SLP will look at such factors as:

- What are the individual's language abilities?
- What are the individual's physical abilities?
- What is the most important vocabulary relevant to the individual?
- Is the individual motivated and interested in using AAC?

The SLP will then need to write a complete evaluation report to establish medical necessity for the equipment and include this report in the funding request submitted to PRC.

You or your SLP can also contact your PRC consultant. He or she will help you determine the appropriate device, language and any other necessary access tools. Find your PRC consultant at https://www.prentrom.com/prc_advantage/prc-regional-consultants

Complete

4



Assemble a Funding Packet

With the SLP and other members of the team, compile the documentation that makes up a Funding Packet.

- The Speech Language Evaluation
- Copies (front and back) of Medicare, Medicaid or Insurance cards
- Prescription from a doctor
- PRC's Client Information Form
- Equipment Selection Sheets
- State-specific forms listed on PRC's Funding Assistant

We recommend using PRC's Online Funding Submission Assistant to ensure up-to-date information. <https://eval.prentrom.com>

Complete

5



Submit the Packet

Once your paperwork is assembled, it's ready to be submitted.

You can submit to the PRC Funding Department by either:

- Uploading in the PRC website
- Faxing
- Mailing

Our Funding Specialists will work with the third party payor(s) to submit the proper documentation and receive an authorization for payment.

Complete

6



Receive and Set Up Your Device

To prepare your device for usage, following is a checklist to help you get your device up and running:

- Review the box and check that all items ordered are enclosed.
- Remove your device from the packaging. Follow the directions outlined in the Quick Start guide.
- Turn on the device or plug it in and begin charging if needed.
- Set the device to the vocabulary and access method that was recommended by the SLP or evaluation team.
- Inform your SLP, PRC consultant and teachers that the device has arrived.

If at any point you need assistance, contact your PRC Consultant. He or she will provide training on device setup, operation and implementation.



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