

IPAT Referral Process for Assistive Technology and MFP
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Systematic procedures for identification, evaluation, and individual program planning for assistive technology needs of individuals will assure equitable access to assistive technology solutions. The development and adoption of protocols for addressing assistive technology which have been systematized assure best practices and equal access for all persons throughout the continuum of the system's responsibility.

Step One: Screening

The Assistive Technology Client Profile Form will be completed by the consumer and transition coordinator/s. This tool provides a systematic method to screen for potential assistive technology solutions for a variety of needs. Screening each individual eliminates the potential for presumptive denial of the need for assistive technology.

Step Two: Technical Assistance

The profile results will be forwarded to IPAT and discussed with an IPAT AT Coordinator. Information and technical assistance will be offered via phone, e-mail, video conferencing, or in person. Recommendation for equipment may or may not be offered at that point.

Step Three: Referral

It may be determined in Step Two that an AT assessment is required. IPAT will determine if the assessment is within their area of expertise and make arrangements to conduct it or will make a referral to the appropriate resource.

Step Four: Assessment Process (*Fee for Service*)

The purpose of the AT Assessment is to match the capabilities and needs of an individual to the characteristics of an AT device or service. Identification of the appropriate technology interventions will be achieved through a logical, systematic decision-making process, which can include equipment trials. The result of an individual assessment is a set of recommendations, which may be for no technology at all, for simple devices or techniques, for sophisticated technology, or most commonly, for a combination of low-tech and high-tech solutions to the problems identified during the process.

Step Five: Equipment Purchase & Set-up (*Fee for Service*)

IPAT does not provide or sell any products, but instead gives detailed information on recommended products and where to procure them. After assistive technology products have been obtained for a consumer, setup, installation, adaptation, or other means of customizing the product for that individual's use are sometimes required. Technical support (troubleshooting problems, answering questions, etc.) is usually provided by the manufacturer or vendor of

the product, by telephone, via the Internet, or in person. IPAT sometimes provides support as well, however if more extensive technical support is needed it becomes a billable service.

Step Six: Training (*Fee for Service*)

Some assistive technology (AT) is simple, and its operation self-evident. Other kinds of AT are more elaborate, requiring that the person using them learn and practice a variety of skills. Sometimes, new devices or software need to be set up, installed, adjusted, or customized for the individual user's circumstances.

IPAT provides some training for individuals with disabilities in the use of assistive technology hardware or software and/or refers them to an appropriate resource.

IPAT Billing Practices

The first three steps of this referral process can be done by IPAT as part of their general services for the people in North Dakota. Steps Four, Five, and Six are billable services for IPAT.