

Assistive Technology, Environmental Interventions and Specialized Procedures

Purpose *To ensure Assistive Technology, Environmental Interventions and Specialized Procedures are used to:*

- *Improve a client's independence;*
- *Assist a client to gain control over their environment;*
- *Promote community inclusion.*

Policy Statement *ASC will ensure AT-EI devices and Specialized Procedures:*

- *Have been assessed, authorized and where applicable installed by the appropriate qualified professional;*
- *Have guidelines specifying the intended and proper use where applicable;*
- *Have informed consent from the client/guardian for the intended use if the device or procedure has the potential to be restrictive (limit autonomy/independence);*
- *Have a process to support clients to maintain and replace their devices as needed.*

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Assistive Technology, Environmental Interventions and Specialized Procedures

Similar to Creating Excellence Together Accreditation Standards:

Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment, product or system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of clients. (For example: walking aids, special spoons, modified telephones, helmets, braces, communication systems, and custom seating/mobility systems).

Environmental Interventions (EI) are any installed equipment to a building's interior or exterior that increases the functional capabilities of clients. (For example: grab bars, ramps and lifts).

As defined by ASC – a Specialized Procedure is any technique or procedure prescribed by a physician/practitioner/specialist used to aid and/or support a person medically or in daily living activities. (For example, catheterization procedures, tracheostomy care procedures, swallowing procedures, range of motion exercises and gastro intestinal tube procedures).

AT and/or EI can fall into three categories:

1. Aids to Daily Living – improves access but does not limit autonomy.

This requires assessment by a qualified professional (such as an Occupational/Physical Therapist) and appropriate documentation. For example: using a custom fitted seating system within a wheelchair, or hearing aids.

2. Health and Safety – addresses health and safety and limits autonomy/restricts rights.

This requires assessment and authorization by a qualified professional, appropriate documentation, guidelines for use and informed consent. For example: using a wheelchair for a client who is able to walk as they may be unsafe walking on uneven surfaces.

3. Situations or Behaviours of Concern – addresses situations or behaviours of concern and limits autonomy/restricts rights.

This requires assessment and authorization by a qualified professional in addition to the requirements for the implementation of a Behaviour Support Plan. The Behaviour Support Plan document must include guidelines for use, and informed consent. For example: using a lap belt on a wheelchair to keep a client seated in the chair because they may damage merchandise if they walked through a store.

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Appropriate documentation for an AT-EI device or Specialized Procedure must include:

- Name of the qualified professional (Physician, practitioner, specialist, etc.)
- Name of the prescribed device or procedure
- Reason for use
- Guidelines for use
- Evaluation and maintenance schedule
- Informed consents as applicable

The Team Manager, Area Coordinator or designate will ensure:

- Assistive Technology, Environmental Interventions (AT-EI) and Specialized Procedures have been appropriately investigated, assessed, and authorized by a qualified professional as required
- The AT-EI and Specialized Procedure Summary is completed with the necessary information
- The documentation is maintained on the appropriate file. For example: main, operations, and or service area files
- Employees receive information and instruction regarding the use, regular evaluation and maintenance of the device or Specialized Procedure
- The AT-EI devices and Specialized Procedures are used as per the guidelines for use; to produce the intended outcomes
- The AT-EI devices or Specialized Procedures are evaluated on a regular basis to determine if it is meeting the intended purpose, and to assess the need for changes, continuation, or discontinuation

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