

Ruling Out Other Methods of Communication



By ruling out other methods of communication, you are further supporting your recommendation for a high-tech device, specifically the QuickTalker Freestyle (QTF).

Within your evaluation, you will need to explain to insurance why other, less-costly, methods of communication do not meet your client's needs.



Natural / No Tech Communication Methods:	Sample Reasons Why These Methods Do Not Meet Your Client's Functional Communication Needs:
Verbal Speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No verbal speech/ minimally verbal communicator• Poor intelligibility• Not sufficient to express functional communication needs
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine motor difficulties• Difficult to gain listener attention• Not sufficient to communicate basic wants and needs
Sign Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine motor difficulties• Not a universal language• Communication partners not always familiar with use

Within every evaluation, you must select 2 additional examples of AAC (low, mid, high) that do not meet your client's needs.

Please view the following examples below. If you have other AAC methods you are considering, feel free to discuss those options as well.



Please refer to your email to view your client's specific insurance requirements for further explanation which methods can be ruled out.

Take note if methods of communication must be trialed or if they can be merely considered and ruled out without attempting them. Base this on on your client's specific insurance requirements and your clinical judgment.



Low Tech AAC Communication Methods:	Sample Reasons Why These Methods Do Not Meet Your Client's Functional Communication Needs:
Core Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No voice output; hard to gain listener attention• Limited access to vocabulary / minimal utterances produced• Poor engagement / motivation to communicate• Time consuming to customize (print, laminate, etc.)• Difficult to implement across various activities
PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Often only allows for requesting, limited functions of communication• Does not support motor plan• Time consuming to customize and add new vocabulary• Cumbersome and bulky to transport
Alphabet Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time consuming for communicator and listener• Relies on ability to spell• Difficult to express longer messages



Mid Tech AAC Communication Methods:	Sample Reasons Why These Methods Do Not Meet Your Client's Functional Communication Needs:
Page Overlay Mid-Tech device (e.g., QuickTalker Feather Touch) Click here for reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited access to vocabulary / minimal utterances produced• Difficult to customize and add new vocabulary• Often requires assistance from caregiver to swap out page overlays which can reduce independence and motivation to communicate• Requires recorded voice that may not be age appropriate• Cumbersome to carry
Single Button Mid-Tech Device (e.g., BigMack, Step by Step, etc.) Click here for reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited access to vocabulary / minimal utterances produced• Only able to access preprogrammed messages• Difficult to customize; requires pre-recorded voices• Difficult to implement across various activities



Other High Tech AAC Communication Methods:	Sample Reasons Why These Methods Do Not Meet Your Client's Functional Communication Needs:
Physical High-Tech Devices From Other Manufacturers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not an IOS based product; different chargers and device specifications that may be unfamiliar for users• Inadequate size or weight• Limited warranty; delay in replacements
School/ Clinic Owned iPad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not a dedicated device used solely for communication• Unable to travel with client for consistent communication• Unable to be personalized for individual client• Must rely on tech department or Apple Store for repairs
Speech Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rule outs are specific to each speech app. Reasoning for ruling out one speech app over another can include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of language system (e.g., motor plan, category based, combination)• Need for alternative language options• Ability to customize icons and images• Client's motivation to communicate effectively <p>Click here for further considerations</p>

Within the evaluation, you must explain how the QuickTalker Freestyle is the only recommended device to meet your client's needs, as other methods of communication (listed above) do not.



Justification For the QuickTalker Freestyle (QTF)

Sample Reasons Why the QuickTalker Freestyle Best Meets Your Client's Functional Communication Needs

- Client's functional communication has improved with use of the QTF. Reasoning can include:
 - Client has access to express medical needs.
[Click here for reference](#)
 - Increased participation in educational, social and vocational settings
 - Enhanced interactions with caregivers, peers, etc.
 - Improved overall quality of life
 - Reduced maladaptive behaviors
 - Expanded utterances produced/decreased prompting; (include specific messages created within your evaluation)
- Dedicated device used solely for communication
- Allows for constant and accessible communication across all settings (e.g., home, work, school, community, etc.)
- Portable and durable; easy to transport
- High quality voice output; appropriate for client's age and native language / dialect
- Allows for vocabulary growth and expansion
- Allows for alternate speech applications and device size swaps if needs change after funding
- Easy to customize; constant access to ableCARE team for tech support and assistance with device implementation
- 5 year warranty; unlimited repairs

Contact our AbleNet Medical Data Support Team for questions about meeting insurance requirements:

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