



*With fast service and unlimited product, we provide Assistive Technology to help you live UNLIMITED!*

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER



**Ability Unlimited is proud to serve individuals through Virginia Medicaid and Medicaid waivers!**

As of August 1, 2017, we have assisted individuals who are enrolled in:

- the CCC Plus waiver (formerly the EDCD/Tech waivers),
- those under the age of 21 on the BI/CL/FIS waivers
- and individuals under 21 who have Medicaid and no waiver!

That means, the potential to facilitate getting you or your loved one the Assistive Technology they need!

For those individuals on the DD Comprehensive waivers; Ability Unlimited will work with your case manager to process your requests.

[Check out our website](#) and for more information on VA Medicaid eligibility criteria, as well as what is needed to submit to DMAS/DBHDS/MCO's for authorization.

If you don't know if you qualify, give us a call: **1-800-511-9471**

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### What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

**Assistive Technology is defined by the Department of Medical Assistance Service as:**

- Specialized medical equipment, supplies, devices, controls, and appliances that enables individuals to increase their abilities to:

o Perform Activities of Daily Living(ADL's) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living(IADL's).

- ADL's: Self care activities. Ex. Bathing, washing, shaving, eating, grooming, dressing, etc.
- IADL's: Not necessary for fundamental functioning, but they let an individual live independently in the community. Ex. Preparing meals, doing laundry, shopping, etc.



- o Perceive, control, or communicate with their environment, or necessary for life support, to include ancillary supplies and equipment necessary for the proper functioning of such technology.
- o Devices must be portable.
- o Equipment or supplies (**DME**) already covered by the State Medical Plan are **NOT** covered under the waiver.
- In order to qualify, the individual shall have a demonstrated need for equipment or modification for remedial or direct medical benefit primarily in the individual's home, vehicle, community activity setting, or day program to specifically improve the individual's personal functioning.
- Assistive Technology shall be covered in the most cost-effective manner.
- Assistive Technology items **MUST** be recommended and determined appropriate to meet the individual's needs by an applicable professional (physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech-language therapist, etc) prior to submitting a request for funding.

Ability Unlimited cannot recommend devices or apps needed for and individuals medical purposes.



## How do I get approval for Assistive Technology?

**Step 1:** Contact Ability Unlimited to navigate the process.

We can provide you with the information and forms to get you started with your request!

**This is not a grant** - there are no applications for approval. If the individual is enrolled in the CCC Plus Waiver or one of the DD Comprehensive waivers; they are eligible to seek approval for assistive technology to be paid for by their Medicaid coverage.

### **Step 2:**

Establishing the medical necessity for an AT device is mandatory. An evaluation by a professional familiar with the device/s being recommended

and agreement by your primary care doctor is needed.  
See an example letter of medical necessity/evaluation [here](#).  
See an example DMAS352 form [here](#).

**Note:** There are specific criteria to be met in seeking a communication device such as an iPad with AAC application, contact us to assist you with SGD's.

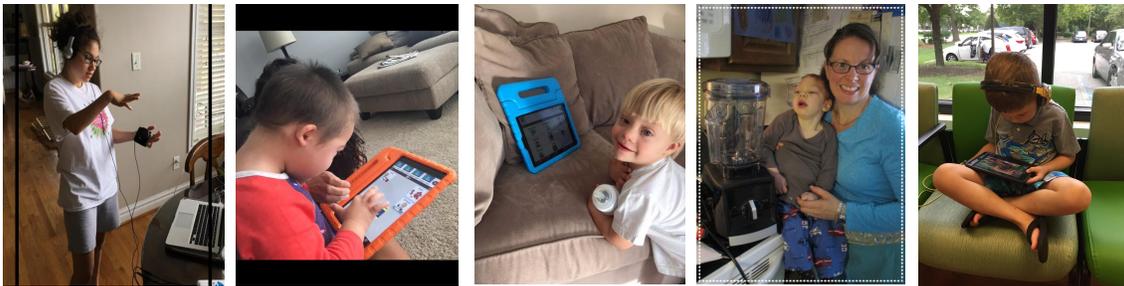
### Evaluation for Assistive Technology Checklist:

- What is the history of the individuals disability?
- How does the device requested correct the individuals disability?
- What are **ALL** the options that have been trialed - What were their successes or failures?
- What is being done currently to correct the individuals disability?
- Why is the device being requested the best option for the individuals needs?
- Is the device being requested more cost effective that other devices?

**Note:** Assistive Technology is not medically necessary just because a therapist and doctor agree that it is - the medical necessity must be described and explained for the service authorization approval.

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The ultimate approval comes from DMAS/MCO/DBHDS.

**Step 3:** Once all of the above is completed send all the documentation to Ability Unlimited for review and processing. Once submitted for service authorization there is a possible 30 - 90 day turn-around for a decision. It is possible to be asked for more information to be submitted during this process.



In Memory

**We LOVE to See Happy Customers!**

If you have been approved for AT with Ability Unlimited; please send us your

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## Device Spotlight On....

You can view a longer list of examples [here](#).

### \*Access Controls\*

**SmartNav Head Tracker**, a reasonably priced mouse alternative that allows those with good head control to completely control their computer.

A tiny reflective dot is placed on the forehead, eyeglass frame, or tip of nose. The mounted camera sends infrared beams out to sense reflections from the dot. The software maps head motion to cursor motion.



Works for both PC and Mac; price quoted is for Windows.  
**Cost if you had to pay for this device is, \$500.00 and up.**

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### \*Non-Standard DME\*



#### **Sleep Safe Bed II:**

Every SleepSafe® Bed includes a foundation that supports the mattress. Customers can choose from fixed, articulated or hi-lo frames. An array of finishes and specialized options are also available.

The SleepSafe® Beds are not only visually appealing, they also address safety issues in ways no other more

traditional institutional equipment can match:

- \* The clear 3/16in windows incorporated in the safety rails provide visibility and affords the opportunity to observe the environment in situations where the need to see and be seen are important.

- \* Entrapment issues are addressed with the patented SleepSafe® Bed design. The space between the side rails, head and foot boards and the mattress is nearly nonexistent - even with mattress compression.

- \* In addition to addressing the problem of entrapment found in traditional pediatric hospital equipment, our beds' aesthetics and durable construction promote an inviting atmosphere for the benefit of not only the resident, where self-esteem may be an issue, but also for family members and caregivers who appreciate a more normalized setting.

SleepSafe Beds® looks forward to providing safe, functional products for our customer's use. With input from caregivers and health care professionals,

we will continue to develop new products designed to make life easier and safer for individuals with special needs as well as those who care for them. SleepSafe® Beds are registered and listed with the FDA.

**Cost if you had to pay for this model with accessories would be almost \$13000.00!**



## Environmental Modifications

Ability Unlimited may be able to assist with your request for Environmental Modifications that are medically necessary.

**EM** are internal and external physical adaptations to the primary home or primary vehicle, which are necessary to

ensure the health, welfare and safety of the waiver participant. These modifications enable the waiver participant to function with greater independence and prevent institutionalization.

These can include:

- Modification to the layout (remove a door to make the opening wider)
- Provide adaptive equipment (install a tub bench)
- Architectural Modification (install a ramp, bathroom modification)
- Vehicle Modification (installing controls, modifying for wheelchair)



**Ability Unlimited does not recommend the modifications an individual needs; this must come from a qualified professional. Modifications do not include adding on to the square footage of a home or vehicle purchases.**

[Contact Ability Unlimited to assess your EM needs](#)

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