

Funding Packet

SGD Evaluation Criteria

A speech generating device (SGD) (E2500 - E2510) is covered when all of the following criteria (1-7) are met:

1. Prior to the delivery of the SGD, the patient has had a formal evaluation of their cognitive and communication abilities by a speech-language pathologist (SLP). The formal, written evaluation must include, at a minimum, the following elements:
 - a. Current communication impairment, including the type, severity, language skills, cognitive ability, and anticipated course of the impairment;
 - b. An assessment of whether the individual's daily communication needs could be met using other natural modes of communication;
 - c. A description of the functional communication goals expected to be achieved and treatment options;
 - d. Rationale for selection of a specific device and any accessories;
 - e. Demonstration that the patient possesses a treatment plan that includes a training schedule for the selected device;
 - f. The cognitive and physical abilities to effectively use the selected device and any accessories to communicate;
 - g. For a subsequent upgrade to a previously issued SGD, information regarding the functional benefit to the patient of the upgrade compared to the initially provided SGD.
2. The patient's medical condition is one resulting in a severe expressive speech impairment.
3. The patient's speaking needs cannot be met using natural communication methods.
4. Other forms of treatment have been considered and ruled out.
5. The patient's speech impairment will benefit from the device ordered.
6. A copy of the SLP's written evaluation and recommendation have been forwarded to the patient's treating physician prior to ordering the device.
7. The SLP performing the patient evaluation may not be an employee of or have a financial relationship with the supplier of the SGD.

If one or more of the SGD coverage criteria 1-7 is not met, the SGD will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Codes E2500 - E2510 perform the same essential function - speech generation. Therefore, claims for more than one SGD will be denied as not reasonable and necessary.

Accessories (E2599) for E2500 - E2510 are covered if the basic coverage criteria (1-7) for the base device are met and the reasonable and necessary criteria for each accessory is clearly documented in the formal evaluation by the SLP.