Getting the Right Equipment: Navigating CRT and DME

The Role of the Assistive Technology Professional in Promoting Independence, Safety, and Quality of Life.

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Introduction

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Learning Objectives

1. Describe the process

Summarize the process of obtaining assistive technology, including Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT) and Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

2. Identify individual needs

Explain the importance of assessing the unique needs of individuals with traumatic brain injuries and exploring appropriate device options.

3. Recognize the value of collaboration

Describe the importance of establishing a strong working relationship with an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) when obtaining assistive technology.

Understanding CRT and DME

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

Basic Wheelchairs

Walkers

Basic Shower Chair



Complex Rehabilitation Technology (CRT)

Complex manual wheelchairs

Power wheelchairs with specialized seating

Custom seating and positioning systems







the goal is not simply to obtain equipment, but to obtain the *right equipment for the individual's functional needs, safety, and long-term goals*.

Process of obtaining CRT

- Identify the individual's medical and functional needs.
- Obtain the required clinical evaluation and prescription.
- Select appropriate equipment with the care team.
- Complete supporting documentation and insurance authorization.
- Order, fit, deliver, and train the user.
- Provide follow-up, adjustments, and maintenance as needed.



Important: Requirements vary by payer, equipment type, and applicable regulations

How an ATP Supports the Process

An Assistive Technology Professional helps bridge the gap between clinical needs and equipment solutions.

- Evaluates mobility and functional requirements in collaboration with the individual, caregivers, and clinical team
- Helps identify seating, positioning, and access needs
- Recommendations for appropriate CRT and configurations to best achieve goals for patient while promoting independence and safety

From Evaluation to Successful Equipment Use

ATP's contribution continues beyond initial evaluation and equipment selection.

- Coordinate equipment trials when appropriate
- Confirm fit, function, and configuration to ensure full potential of the device
- Provide education for both user and caregivers
- Identify the need for adjustments and follow-up



more than just delivery. It means the equipment works for the individual

Why the Right Device Matters

The wrong equipment can lead to:

- Poor fit, discomfort, or positioning problems
- Limited function and reduced independence
- Safety concerns
- Unnecessary costs, delays, or replacement needs

The right equipment can support:

- Improved safety and appropriate positioning
- Greater independence and participation
- Increased comfort and functional ability
- Reduced barriers to daily activities
- More effective caregiver assistance
- Better long-term suitability and value

Questions?

References

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