

ASPIRATION RISK MANAGEMENT

The therapy consultants provide periodic statewide trainings and ongoing technical assistance to individuals, therapists and interdisciplinary teams (IDT) regarding aspiration risk management. The consultants also provide clinical expertise to the adult Supports and Assessment for Feeding and Eating (SAFE) clinic.

The SAFE Clinic provides support and guidance to individuals, IDT's, and families regarding safe and healthy eating and tube feeding management. The multidisciplinary SAFE Clinic Teams is comprised of:

- a nutritionist
- a physician
- a positioning specialist and an eating/dysphagia specialist from the Therapy Services Unit.

The team provides expertise in the areas of:

- Medical support
- Nutritional analysis
- Seating and positioning
- Oral-motor/swallowing function

Additional Contacts for ARM Assistance

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SAFE Clinic Info. and Referral
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THERAPY SERVICES UNIT

CLINICAL SERVICES BUREAU
(CSB)
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES SUPPORTS
DIVISION
(DDSD)



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MISSION STATEMENT

The DDS Clinical Services Bureau (CSB) includes the Therapy Services Unit (TSU). The TSU promotes and provides quality therapy services to individuals living with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), their interdisciplinary teams (IDT), and their families. This is accomplished through:

- resource development
- technical assistance
- training
- specialized direct services

The TSU employs contract therapists in the areas of Occupational Therapy, Speech-Language Pathology and Physical Therapy who have extensive experience supporting individuals living with I/DD.

The TSU also supports and advises the State of New Mexico regarding development and implementation of service standards and policies that promote quality therapy services for its citizens with I/DD.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The TSU provides technical assistance and information to therapists and teams throughout the state regarding:

- Assistive Technology
- Aspiration Risk Management
- Provision of Therapy Services funded by the NM DD Waiver
- Other therapy related issues

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS

The TSU provides technical assistance and a variety of resources to promote the use of assistive technology (AT) to enrich the lives of individuals with I/DD.

1) THE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

The Participatory Approach philosophy asserts that all persons with I/DD should be supported to participate as fully in life as possible, both physically and communicatively, with the support of Assistive Technology (AT) and therapy strategies/IDT approaches that support immediate participation in life activities.

The Participatory Approach addresses supports in the areas of:

- Mobility and Positioning
- Communication
- Environmental Access
- Cognitive Enhancement
- Self-Care and Life Skills

2) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FUND

The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) provides grants to individuals living with I/DD for the purchase or fabrication of assistive technology devices needed to participate in functional activities.

3) AT EQUIPMENT LOAN

A limited amount of targeted AT equipment is available for short-term loan to therapists working with persons with I/DD for evaluation of AT needs.

- The Augmentative and Alternative Communication Loan Bank
- Environmental Access Loan Bank
- Mobility and Positioning Equipment

TARGETED CONSULTATION

The TSU collaborates with the individual, the therapist and the IDT to provide assistance with evaluation, targeted therapy strategies, and ongoing technical assistance to the team.

TRAINING

The TSU provides a variety of training opportunities for therapists and IDT members to enhance understanding of providing quality therapy services utilizing the Collaborative-Consultative Model of therapy delivery for individuals on the NM DD Waiver.

These trainings include:

- The Participatory Approach/ DD Waiver Standards
- Aspiration Risk Management
- Special Topics Trainings (such as QA, Effective Documentation, AT, and select discipline specific topics)

QUALITY ASSURANCE/IMPROVEMENT FOR THERAPY PROVIDER AGENCIES

The TSU is charged with ensuring that quality therapy services are provided by therapy provider agencies. The TSU carries out activities to assure the Collaborative-Consultative Model of service delivery is used during evaluation, treatment planning and treatment implementation. Therapist documentation must reflect this model of service. TSU consultants provide supportive guidance and assistance to therapists and therapy provider agencies, when QA/QI activities indicate it would be helpful.