Speech and Communication

The ability to communicate has a bearing on how well a person accesses all areas of their MND journey. The MDT should assess, manage and review speech and communication including the person’s response to treatment during regular assessments – the SLT is a core member of the MDT team.

Assessment of communication should take the quality and rate of change in the voice into account. Interventions such as voice banking or message recording are best completed as early as possible.

Possible Solutions

Low Tech
- Alphabet boards.
- Word Boards.
- Picture boards.

High Tech
- PC or tablet-based voice output communication aids.
- Voice Banking (this is not in the NICE guideline).
- Liaise with, or refer to, a specialised NHS AAC hub if complex high technology AAC equipment is needed or is likely to be needed.
- Involve other healthcare professionals, e.g. occupational therapists, to ensure that AAC equipment is integrated with other assistive technologies, such as environmental control systems and personal computers or tablets.

Ongoing support
- Provide ongoing support and training for the person with MND, and their family members and/or carers, in the use of AAC equipment and other communication strategies.
- MDT regularly monitor the person’s communication needs and abilities as MND progresses (and review their ability to use AAC equipment).
- Reassess and liaise with a specialised NHS AAC hub if needed.