

Speech and communication

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



Possible solutions

Low tech:

- alphabet board
- word/phrase board
- picture board
- communication book
- writing (paper, whiteboard etc)
- eye transfer frame (E-Tran).

High tech:

- PC or tablet-based voice output communication aids
- voice banking (not in the NICE guideline)
- liaise with, or refer to, a specialised NHS AAC hub if complex high tech AAC equipment is needed or is likely to be needed
- involve other professionals, eg occupational therapists, to ensure that AAC equipment is integrated with other assistive technologies, such as environmental controls, personal computers or tablets.

Ongoing support:

- provide ongoing support and training for the person with MND, their family members and/or carers, in the use of AAC equipment and other communication strategies
- multidisciplinary team 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.

Visit www.mndassociation.org/dysarthria to find out more about supporting speech and communication in MND.