

Communication Survey for People with MND

Name: _____ Date: _____

How and when to get started with AAC is different for everyone. If the person with MND is noting any fatigue with speech or any difficulty with access to technology, it is time to begin the AAC evaluation process to determine high-tech and light-tech options as the disease process progresses. Here are some questions to ask the person with MND to help get started:

Questions/Answers:	Suggestions:
Does speech ever feel fatiguing or effortful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think about Voice Preservation or Message Banking when speech isn't feeling effortful. When speech is fatiguing look for alternatives such as writing (dry erase board, paper, alphabet boards, texting). Report speech and voice changes to your physician or SLT as it may be time to schedule an AAC evaluation.
What times or environments is speech most challenging? (e.g., phone, restaurants, while laying down, early morning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid loud environments, when possible, especially for group conversations. Have pre-written information ready as a backup.
Is it at all difficult to accurately touch and use your computer, phone, or tablet?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at accessibility features in your current devices under Settings. Talk to your physician, SLT or OT about alternate access options.
When turning on/off lights or accessing thermostats/fans, is it ever hard to do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at smart home options and smart assistants (Alexa, Google Home, etc.). Talk to your SLT or OT about Environmental Control options.
What are some applications you currently do on your smart devices that are very important to you? (Social media, Texting, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an important list when considering AAC as some devices can also be used for computer access.

Note that speech does not have to be 100% unintelligible for someone with MND to be eligible for AAC via funding. It is important to start the journey with AAC when any form of speech disturbance begins.