

Recommendations for Low-Risk and Under Advice Assistive Technology (AT)

Client name: _____ Client address: _____

Client reference: _____ Client D.O.B: _____

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| <p>State the client goal(s) that will be supported with AT:</p> |
| <p>Supporting Outcome: 1.1 Person-centred care Insert the relevant goal(s) from the client's care plan here. These goals should have been developed in collaboration with the person. If you identify new goals, make sure to add them to the care plan.</p> <p>Supporting Outcome: 1.3 Choice, independence and quality of life Focus on goals that promote independence and quality of life. Achieving these goals may involve positive risk-taking, as encouraged in Outcome 1.3.</p> |

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| AT is required because the person has: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduced flexibility/ROM | <input type="checkbox"/> Fear/anxiety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

People don't need AT because they're old. They need AT because they've experienced changes in their body systems. These changes can often be reversed or compensated for with interventions. Thinking about why a person needs AT will help you make better suggestions and incorporate other, more restorative reablement opportunities.

| AT recommended (See AT-HM List for guidance on AT risk levels) | | |
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| 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> Low-risk | <input type="checkbox"/> Under advice (refer to coordinator) |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> Low-risk | <input type="checkbox"/> Under advice (refer to coordinator) |

Supporting Outcomes:

- **2.3 Accountability, quality system and policies and procedures** (accountabilities and responsibilities specific to different roles)
- **2.9 Human resource management** (workers must be skilled and competent in their roles and have relevant expertise and experience)
- **3.1 Assessment and planning** (involve relevant health professionals where required)

It's important that you understand the boundaries of your role in recommending and prescribing AT. Any worker supporting a client can recommend low-risk AT. However, 'under advice' items can only be recommended by those with additional AT skills, knowledge, and experience. Similarly, 'prescribed' items can only be recommended by allied health professionals, according to their scope of practice. Using the AT-HM List for guidance, make sure you know which staff members can recommend 'under advice' and 'prescribed' AT, and that you have clear procedures in place to support this process.

| The AT is recommended: |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Short term (while the client builds capacity e.g., strength, balance, flexibility) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long term (the client has limited potential to build capacity) |

Supporting Outcome: 3.1 Assessment and planning (preventative care, optimising quality of life, reablement and maintenance of function)

When you provide AT, you're not improving lost function, you're **compensating** for it. This section encourages you to consider whether the person could improve to a point where they no longer need AT. If AT is used long term, the person won't regain the lost function, putting them at risk of further deterioration. Think about a person using an over-toilet frame. The frame may compensate for lack of leg strength. If the person becomes dependent on the frame, they cannot access toilets in other locations, limiting their social and community participation. In this instance, it's important to ask yourself questions like: could the person strengthen their legs so the frame is no longer needed?

| Would the client benefit from reablement to: | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Build strength | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve endurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve joint range of motion | <input type="checkbox"/> Manage pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Manage fatigue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manage anxiety | <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulate thinking skills (cognition) | <input type="checkbox"/> Support another area: _____ |
| If any interventions are selected, refer to coordinator for required action | | |

Supporting Outcome: 3.1 Assessment and planning (preventative care, optimising quality of life, reablement and maintenance of function)

This section prompts you to consider the older person's potential. Functional decline is not simply due to ageing. It's often related to decreased activity, as older people are frequently discouraged from being active and independent. Considering opportunities for the person to build capacity will enhance quality of life and functional abilities. For information on reablement strategies that **everyone** can implement, go to [5 Reablement strategies](#).

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| Are there any potential risks associated with the use of this AT? | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If yes, identify: | | | |
| Potential risks: Supporting Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 Assessment and planning (identifying and managing risks to safety and wellbeing) • 4.1a Environment and equipment at home (ensuring equipment is safe and meets the needs of the individual) | | | |
| Actions to minimise risk: | | | |
| If the client or staff requires instruction to use this AT correctly, the instruction will be provided by: | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational therapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Physiotherapist | <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinator | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support worker (low-risk AT only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

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| Instructions for AT upon delivery: Supporting Outcome: 4.1a Environment and equipment at home (ensuring equipment is safe and meets the needs of the individual) |
| Location: This could include identifying the room, positioning, or direction in which the equipment will be placed (e.g., shower chair facing the taps). |
| Adjustments/settings: This could include documenting the seat height in centimetres for adjustable chairs and/or reminders to adjust the chair legs to accommodate graded floor surfaces (e.g., for an over-toilet frame). |
| Other: Any additional instructions or important information about the AT to ensure it's used safely and effectively e.g., 'show the person how to charge the battery-operated lightweight vacuum cleaner'. |

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| To ensure AT is fit for purpose, it will be reviewed upon delivery/installation by: | | |
| Name: | | Role/Qualification: |
| Review to be conducted via: | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-person visit | <input type="checkbox"/> Phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Email |
| Notes: Include relevant details such as the appropriate contact person's name, phone number, email address, best times to reach them, and any specific instructions or follow-up actions related to the communication. | | |

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| AT recommended by: | |
| Name: | Designation: |
| Date: | Signature: |
| Contact details: | |
| Phone: | Email |
| Organisation (for contractors): | |

Supporting Outcome: 3.3 Communicating for safety and quality: This template can help you share information with other people involved in the person's care, including both direct employees and contracted staff. It ensures they document the details your organisation needs to demonstrate compliance with the Aged Care Standards 1, 2, 3, and 4.

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