



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Assistive Technology Center (ATC) at Northampton Rehabilitation and Nursing Center/Hallmark Development Center is home to the most advanced communication technology available today. The AT Center's goal is to allow our residents access to this technology to achieve the highest level of functional independence during their illness or following a brain injury. It is our belief that the introduction of technology that increases functional independence returns the sense of hope and recovery that is vital for the long term success of the individual.

UPON ADMISSION

The AT Center is involved in assisting residents with the basics such as how to use the Nurse Call system, using adaptive switches to interface with the call bell system to enable paralyzed individuals the ability to signal for assistance. Pillow and large surface switches as well as voice call systems are available for use and have been successful in allowing severely impaired residents regain function. The AT Center will also assist with environmental controls providing adaptive controls for televisions as needed.

Additionally, the AT Center can provide X-10 switches for control of lights and other appliances. Assessment of switch and technology use is completed and training may begin with use of adaptive switches including big mac, jelly bean, proximity and sip puff. Mounting devices can also be selected or developed to enable access to devices from wheelchair or bed. For those requiring speech generation technology, Dynavox DV4's are available for training and our AT Center staff will assist with funding paperwork. Speech and Language Therapy makes use of a wide range of computer enhanced therapy techniques for relearning speech with articulation and language drills as well as cognitive and safety awareness training being conducted via computer technology. Adaptive mice, keyboards, rollerballs are available for those with mobility impairments. The latest speech recognition and screen reader technology is available to assist residents with expressive and receptive skills training.

OTHER SERVICES

Speech Language Pathologists have access to voice amplification systems to assist with allowing residents to regain their voice following a stroke. Once the resident is functionally able to complete, additional programs such as Mayer Johnson computer programs enable immediate personalization of picture symbol boards to assist with communication.

Therapy sessions can be audio and video recorded for review and training as well as to document progress and as a therapy tool to assist residents with increased awareness of function. The AT Center can assist residents with relearning computer skills such as web/email access and other online tasks.

**For additional information or to make a referral, please contact the Program Director,
Lisa Jakshitis at ljakshitis@northnh.net or call (413) 586-3300 extension 112.**