

Enhancing Daily Living Activities with
**Augmentative and
Alternative Communication
(AAC)**

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) refers to communication methods outside of verbal speech, which persons with speech, language, and/or voice disorders may use to communicate. AAC can include the use of signs or gestures; communication books or boards; and/or voice output speech generating devices.

Speech-language pathologists work with adults and children with communication disabilities to help determine the best AAC strategies that will help an individual to meet their activity and participation goals.

Children and adults with the following may benefit from an AAC evaluation:

- Speech impairments due to diagnoses such as stroke, traumatic brain injury (TBI), cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, Apraxia, or ALS;
- Language impairments due to diagnoses such as autism, stroke, or intellectual disability (ID);
- Voice impairments due to diagnoses such as head/neck cancer or vocal-fold paralysis.

The AAC clinic uses a team-based approach to determine the most appropriate Augmentative and Alternative Communication options for clients. AAC clinic services through MARTI include:

- Evaluation for non-speech-generating and speech-generating AAC systems
- Therapeutic services to train and implement recommended AAC systems
- Consultations regarding appropriate assistive technology to aid with functional communication, as well as language and speech rehabilitation
- Continuing education related to AAC

The **Marianjoy Assistive Rehabilitation Technology Institute** offers solutions to everyday problems of daily living encountered by individuals with disabilities. The Institute consists of seven distinct centers that apply advancements in technology to benefit individuals with disabilities through maximizing functional independence, as well as expanding educational, vocational, recreational, and communicative opportunities.

- **Assistive Communication and Daily Living Center**
- **Balance and Vestibular Center**
- **Driver Rehabilitation Center**
- **Gait Analysis and Mobility Center**
- **Prosthetic and Orthotic Center**
- **Swallowing and Voice Center**
- **Wheelchair and Positioning Center**



To make an appointment or
for more information, call

630-909-7150

or visit Marianjoy.org