



*Better Care: Healthier Communities*

Birmingham Community Healthcare **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Mounting Matters

Claire Hayward

Lead OT for AAC

Access to Communication and  
Technology

# Definitions

- Generally – mounting of a VOCA to a wheelchair (but could be low tech too!)
- But an also include: floor, table, bed chair, mounting, mounting of switches or other access methods.
- Other positioning equipment – trays, grab bars etc



# Service specification

- Mounting systems for switches and control devices
- Positioning and support systems provided to the individual (often using a wheelchair) in order to access the communication aid.
- Hub team should include: Seating and positioning; Access and control methods and mounting of equipment
- EOR – not for mounting (but how do you know....so excluded clients who are w/chair users?)



# Referral for mounting only

- If a person meets the eligibility criteria the assessment will include considering the need for mounting of the required AAC equipment. If a person meets the eligibility criteria and has appropriate equipment in place, a referral can be made for consideration of mounting options.



# When to consider

Multi step process

1. Initial assessment – always consider the possibility
2. Possible visit to look at chair
3. Further **assessment** appt to look at technical feasibility and implementation
4. Clinical check
5. Review process



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# What to consider – Step 1

Size:  
access  
and  
vision

Chair – size  
and config

Driving –  
method and  
skills

Out and  
about

Ownership  
and  
renewal

What are the  
goals and  
expectations?

Transfers  
and  
obstruction

Aesthetics

Movements

Team around the  
person



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# Goals

- Access to full vocabulary?
- Attention and initiation
- Communication partner skills



# Who?

- Competence, professionals
- Initial identification – clinical rather than technical
- Technical feasibility and implementation



Medical devices – modifications, the person carrying out, or authorizing, is responsible for the whole medical device



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# Technical feasibility and implementation – Step 3

- Mounting point location – anchor points and brake handles
- Other movements of the chair
- Stability issues
- Degrees of movement of the mount
- Grade of mounting system
- 3d space occupied by the chair and the mounting system



# After placement – Step 4

- Postural impact of position – additional equipment required?
- Driving impact
- Visual impact
- Risk of equipment – poles, cabling, device
- Recalibrate
- Risk assess outcome of stability test (clients movements within the chair)



# Where to carry it out?

- Technical workshop
- Stability testing equipment
- Space! Comfort for the client
- Moving and handling issues



# Documentation

- MAT Doc
- Photos and marking locations and angles
- Handover and local responsibility – future?
- Clinical notes and report to LWS
- Issue documentation
- Permission from provider of the chair?



# MAT Doc - best practice guidelines

- When selecting mounting solutions, consider all contexts in which the technology will be used.
- Consider the needs of all those who will interact with the technology
- Provide equipment that gives flexibility
- Position devices and mounts in a protective fashion
- Consider the safety of the user and those around them
- Ensure safety testing is relevant and appropriate
- Use risk management as a tool to identify uncertainty and opportunities to improve safety not as tool to restrict independence or participation
- Provide user instruction in formats that are relevant and appropriate
- Use commercially available products where possible and bespoke solutions when necessary



# Things to consider

- Turn over of chairs
- Review/change of client needs (Step 5)
- Wear and maintenance (Step 5)
- How many chairs – design chair mount to take one bar
- Trial of equipment
- Eyegaze
- Transport



# Integration

Hubs:

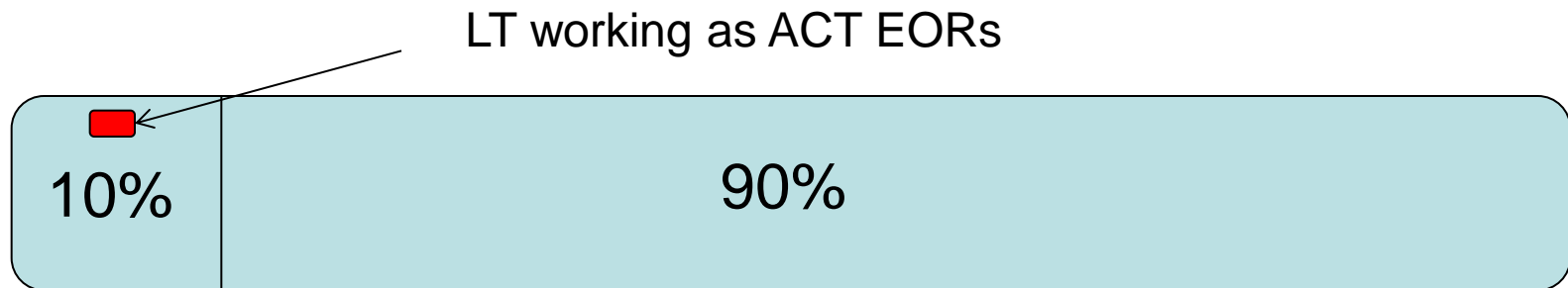
- An ability to integrate services and equipment

Not for EORs (but how do you know?...)



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# Skills audit and development needs as a local service



LT working with ACT clients

LT working with clients, support and training from ACT

OT - ACT	SLT - ACT
OT - LT	SLT - LT





# Other thoughts

- What about head rests, table, grab bars?
- What about other mounting locations
- What about mounting other items – eg switches?
- Work/school chairs and buggies
- Private chairs



# Questions?



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