

AAC Resources and Mention of AAC Services at Pediatric Interdisciplinary Clinics in New England

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05/02/25

Acronyms & Terminology

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication - AAC
- Assistive Technology - AT
- Speech-Language Pathologist - SLP
- Occupational Therapist - OT
- Physical Therapist – PT
- Total Communication – A combination of several communication modalities (oral expression, signs, AAC, gestures, etc.)

Background: What is AAC?

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)
 - A component of Assistive Technology (AT)
 - The ways people communicate besides talking
- May include levels of technology
 - Low-tech
 - Mid-tech
 - High-tech

(Beukelman & Light, 2020)

Rationale

- Adults and children with disabilities often use some type or level of AAC to support communication
- AAC resources are an essential component of the evaluation and intervention process
- What AAC resources are available at pediatric interdisciplinary clinics in New England?
 - How many mention AAC evaluation and intervention services?

Methods

- Review pediatric interdisciplinary pediatric clinics in New England
 - SLP
 - OT
 - PT
- Review available AAC resources and services
 - Calculate percentages of each

Results – Massachusetts

- 22 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 7/22 provided AAC resources (32%)
 - 4/22 mentioned AAC evaluation/intervention (18%)
- AAC Resources
 - Blog posts
 - Educational videos

Results – Rhode Island

- 13 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 3/13 provided AAC resources (23%)
 - 5/13 mentioned AAC evaluation/intervention (38%)
- AAC Resources
 - Blog posts
 - Links to external websites

Results – New Hampshire

- 13 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 1/13 provided an AAC resource (8%)
 - 6/13 mentioned AAC evaluation/intervention (46%)
- AAC Resource
 - Blog post

Results – Vermont

- 13 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 1/13 provided an AAC resource
 - 5/13 mentioned AAC evaluation/intervention
- AAC Resource
 - Links to external websites

Results – Connecticut

- 19 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 5/19 provided AAC resources (26%)
 - 6/19 mention AAC evaluation/intervention (32%)
- AAC Resources
 - Blog posts
 - Educational videos
 - Links to external websites
 - Website summaries

Results – Maine

- 18 pediatric interdisciplinary clinics
 - 1/18 provided an AAC resource
 - 7/18 mentioned AAC evaluation/intervention
- AAC Resource
 - Website summary

Discussion & Implications

- Most clinic websites were simple to navigate
- Most clinic websites had some type of resources available
- Many clinic websites mentioned AAC, but did not have resources

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