



QUALIFICATIONS: Electronic Cognitive Devices (ECDs)

Clinical practice recommendation from the VHA Prosthetic Clinical Management Program states the qualifications are:

“Electronic Cognitive Devices should be considered as an option for improving the everyday function of Veterans with cognitive impairments regardless of the duration of the problem, age, physical impairments and activity restrictions, service-connection status or era of military service” and the individual “...demonstrates cognitive impairment which a qualified clinician determines with objective cognitive testing.”

All of the following specific requirements must be met:

- Complete evaluation by Assistive Technology (AT) clinician that identifies cognitive impairment that can be improved with use of electronic cognitive device and/or the patient has had recent objective cognitive testing.
 - Cognitive impairments are due to medical, psychiatric, and/or psychological disorders.
- Ability to function in various environments is impacted by cognitive deficits and can be improved with the use of an electronic cognitive device.
- Use of an electronic cognitive device would improve ability to participate in activities of daily living, vocational and/or avocational activities.
- Able to cognitively and physically use an electronic cognitive device safely and effectively.
- Able to see and hear an electronic cognitive device to use it safely and effectively.
- Able to independently and consistently use the electronic cognitive device.
- Able to maintain the electronic cognitive device.

PROCESS:

1. Veteran has completed and documented recent objective testing to demonstrate cognitive impairment.
2. Veteran identifies interest in requesting an electronic cognitive device and/or software as well as functional need that will impact in school, work, etc.
3. Veteran’s physician places Assistive Technology consult.
4. Veteran attends initial AT evaluation and receives education regarding the program.
5. Veteran completes Assistive Technology Outcome Measures.
6. If deemed appropriate, the Veteran trials various devices and/or software to determine the most appropriate option.
7. The Veteran demonstrates motivation to use the device to improve ability to participate in activities of daily living.



8. The AT clinician and Veteran determine the final recommendations for a device and/or software. These recommendations include the following:
 - Electronic cognitive device, software, and/or iOS or Android Applications (APPS) to be purchased by the Prosthetics Service.
 - Delivery location of the device and/or software.
 - Training needs for the device and/or software.
9. Veteran is educated that the VA does not pay for monthly fees or subscriptions in relation to software programs and/or APPS.
10. Veteran is educated that these devices are for a medical and/or clinical need not for any additional purpose and the use for other purposes could impact the function of the recommended AT device.
11. Electronic cognitive device and/or software approval process:
 - A. The AT clinician completes the evaluation in the medical record system.
 - B. A consult is submitted to the Prosthetics Service to purchase the equipment and/or software.
 - C. The Prosthetics Service has 7 days to respond to the consult.
12. The length of time for delivery of the device and/or software varies.
13. The device and/or software will be delivered to the Veteran directly or the AT clinician based on the treatment plan previously defined by the Veteran and AT clinician.
14. The Veteran will attend training sessions on the device and/or software provided.
15. The Veteran may be eligible to complete follow up Assistive Technology appointments via telehealth. For additional information regarding eligibility criteria for telehealth, ask you Assistive Technology provider.

