

Overview: Tablet (iPad) Initiative



Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Office of Long-Term Services and Supports:
Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, Oxygen &
Respiratory Therapy (DMEPOS)
May 16th, 2024



Overview: Tablet (iPad) Initiative

History of Tablet Implementation:

General Law- Part I, Title XVII, Chapter 118E, Section 10H:

Subject to the availability of federal financial participation, the division shall cover medically necessary treatments for persons younger than 21 years old who are receiving medical coverage under this chapter and who are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist. If federal funds are available to the commonwealth, said coverage shall include, but shall not be limited to, services for applied behavior analysis supervised by a board certified behavior analyst and dedicated and non-dedicated augmentative and alternative communication devices, including, but not limited to medically necessary tablets; provided, however, that the division shall also provide coverage for augmentative and alternative communication devices not eligible for federal funds if the total cost incurred by the division for a device that is not eligible for federal funds is not more than the commonwealth's share of a comparable device that is eligible for federal funds.

Goal:

To improve access of non-dedicated devices (tablets) for qualified MassHealth members to satisfy legislative language in 2017.

Member qualifications:

Members under 21 with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, who have a severe expressive communication disorder.



Overview of Tablet (iPad) Initiative

Challenges

- *DMEPOS Program*
 - * Managing and setting up tablets without IT support.
 - * Purchase and delivery efficiency of approved devices.
- *Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)*
 - * SLP familiarity and role within the prior authorization process.
 - * Clinics having limited equipment to perform evaluations and data driven trials with members.



Updates on the Tablet (iPad) Initiative

ARPA funding :

- * Establish Speech Language Pathology (SLP) pilot clinics.
- * Setting up Clinic with a stock of tablets, protective cases and software.

MCE Collaboration

- * Expanding across MCE plans for access to tablets (non-dedicated devices)

Established Rutters Technology IT contract.

- * Business Operations and DMEPOS collaborated together on a Statement of Work (SOW)
- * Rutters signed on to provide tech support, imaging and delivery of devices to members and clinics

Next Steps

- * Develop a Request for Application (RFA) intended to expand statewide coverage.
- * Set up 6 new SLP pilot clinics locations