



AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION

75TH ANNIVERSARY
1925-2000

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2000

TO: Lewis Golinker, Esq.

FROM: Steven C. White, Ph.D., Director
Health Care Economics and Advocacy

RE: Aphonia and Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association recommends that the Medicare list of diagnoses that indicate a need for evaluation of an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device include aphonia. An AAC device would be considered for an individual with aphonia when a speech-language pathologist determines that the individual is not able to use natural communication, amplification devices, or an artificial larynx for daily communication needs.