## Assistive Technology (AT) Complexity Level Classification

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<td><strong>Category 4 - complex AT solutions</strong>&lt;br&gt;The AT may:&lt;br&gt;• Be custom made or 'off the shelf' but configured uniquely for the person&lt;br&gt;• require interconnection or integration with other AT or the persons home/work/place of study&lt;br&gt;• carry significant risk (hospitalisation or death)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Advisor characteristics</strong>&lt;br&gt;Specialist and/or ongoing support (including specialised training) needed to identify, source and integrate components of assistive solutions into the participant's life for effective use.</td>
<td><strong>Mobility</strong>: power wheelchairs with integrated controls; motor vehicle AT (operator); highly configurable manual wheelchairs; electronic mobility AT for person who is blind&lt;br&gt;<strong>Adaptive seating and positioning system for complex posture</strong>: within wheelchair; vehicle passenger seat/tie down; static seating; bed systems&lt;br&gt;<strong>Complex Bathing and toileting devices</strong>: bathing devices including shower commodes&lt;br&gt;<strong>Complex pressure care management</strong>: high-level pressure cushions and pressure care sleep systems&lt;br&gt;<strong>Bed systems for complex need</strong>: full mattress replacements; bed rails &amp; bedrail covers&lt;br&gt;<strong>Prosthetics</strong>: complex/myoelectric; <strong>Orthotics/footwear</strong>: complex, high-risk;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Hearing</strong>: hearing aids and accessories (complex need); cochlear implant speech processors, BAHA&lt;br&gt;<strong>Specialised ICT access</strong>: specialised software; alternate access &amp; mounting systems etc.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Complex home modifications</strong>: modifications that require structural changes to building and/or require council permits&lt;br&gt;<strong>Communication devices</strong> (initial / complex): electronic voice/voice prostheses; equipment for Deafblind individuals&lt;br&gt;<strong>Continence</strong>: initial supply/review of anal devices and intravaginal bladder supports&lt;br&gt;<strong>Enteral nutrition</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Environmental control units</strong>: Multifunction complex control ECUs</td>
<td>AT devices/systems designed to address multiple complex needs of a participant.&lt;br&gt;Participants who are at a high risk of pressure ulcers, entrapment, or asphyxiation.&lt;br&gt;Particularly complex support needs due to:&lt;br&gt;• severe postural deformity;&lt;br&gt;• very complex communication;&lt;br&gt;• severely altered muscle tone;&lt;br&gt;• severely impaired cognition;&lt;br&gt;• challenging environment of use; and/or&lt;br&gt;• high positive behaviour support needs.&lt;br&gt;<strong>Hearing</strong>: paediatric participants and adults with complex needs including poor speech discrimination, profound loss, auditory neuropathy.</td>
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### Characteristics of AT complexity and type of participant advice expected

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| The AT may be similar to that supplied for Level 2, but: | **Communication devices:** non-complex devices/software; refreshable electronic Braille display; multipage communication books  
**Specialised vision/hearing devices:** desktop electronic magnification, telescopes, daisy player, items for administering medication for people with vision impairment; hearing aids & accessories  
**Continence:** initial supply of all continence items (with the exception of Level 4)/review of indwelling continence items  
**Environmental control units** medium complexity environmental control units ECUs  
**Simple home modifications (non-structural)**: non portable ramps including compliant and non-compliant AS1428.1 – 2009 ramps; adaptation of bathroom and kitchen fittings; shower screen removal; bidets – toilet attachment type; stair lifts; repositioning of switches and power outlets; replacement of taps; application of slip resistant coatings; ambient assisted living appliances (combined solutions); activity monitoring solutions;  
**Non standard beds, mattresses & accessories:** sleep support systems for non-complex postural/pressure needs; foot and body wedges; pressure mattresses; pressure mattress overlays; bed sticks/poles;  
**Specialised transfer and movement equipment:** mobile or ceiling hoists and slings;  
**Mobility:** power/power-assist wheelchairs; specialised strollers; scooters; gait aids; vehicle modifications (access); specialised car seats, harnesses* and postural supports; positioning devices; assistance animal; mobility cane (first issue)  
**Low to medium level pressure care management:** low to medium level pressure cushions and mattress  
**Bathing and toileting devices:** Shower commodes – individually configured from standard components; bath lifts  
**Prosthetics** non-complex; **Orthotics** non-complex; **Footwear** first issue | Where there is greater risk of falls, entrapment, asphyxiation, and/or impalement for more active participants due to aspects of their impairment(s)/situation, for example:  
- altered muscle tone;  
- altered visual field;  
- impaired cognition;  
- complexity of environment of use;  
- demand on personal supports or manual handling considerations. |
| - there is greater complexity in participant need AND/OR |  
- requires customisation, interconnection and/or integration with other AT or the person’s home/work/place of study, AND/OR |  
- risk of injury if incorrectly set-up/issued is high or not obvious to operator. |

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1 Non-structural = alteration to non-load bearing walls; installation of fixtures which do not alter structural integrity of home.

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<td>Category 2 - standard AT devices</td>
<td>Simple Bathing and toileting devices: showerstool/chair; bathseat; transfer bench; over-toilet frame; static commode; hand-showers+diverter; <strong>Vision/hearing devices</strong>: video magnifier (optical, handheld); OCR reading machine <strong>Basic Domestic AT</strong>: kitchen trolley; laundry &amp; washing line adaptations; hand held devices for addressing severe vision impairment <strong>Simple home adaptations (external or internal)</strong>: single grabrail; handrail; portable ramps for a single step; single platform step; threshold ramps 35mm rise or less; basic single function Environmental Control Units (ECU); personal alarms <strong>Basic Seating</strong>: adjustable height upright seating; chair raisers <strong>Basic Transfer equipment</strong>: slide sheet; transfer equipment (slide board, slide sheet, swivel discs, turn tables, transfer belts); monkey bar <strong>Continence</strong>: continuation of previous supply without change of circumstances <strong>Orthotics</strong>: Footwear, orthotic resupply where no contra-indications apparent</td>
<td>AT assessor support is required where the participant: • is a first time user of this type of AT device; • has altered muscle tone; • has altered visual field; • has impaired cognition or impaired decision making; • has had a major change in function since last supply; • requires ongoing continence supplies (2 yearly review OR change).</td>
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- **Advisor characteristics**
  - Assessor/mentor support varies depending on availability of information, participant capability, circumstance and complicating issues.

| Category 1 - basic AT | Daily living solutions: medication management devices (except for vision impairment); nonslip bathmat; non-electronic magnifiers; signature guide; talking watch; long-handled or adapted grip equipment, cutlery (& similar items for daily living); tactile dots, large print calendar, large print labels; alert systems with flashing light e.g. baby cry, smoke alarm, doorbell. **Mobility**: replacement mobility cane; replacement covers (like for like); walking stick **Universally designed versions of everyday use products**: microwave; electric kettle, remote control; big button telephone; computer; mobile phone; GPS **External continence**: One off/short term supply of washable briefs; pads; bedding protectors | N.B: Low cost (< $500), basic equipment does not always indicate low risk. **Bedsticks & Poles are Category 3 due to actual instances of severe injury as noted by industry safety alerts.** **Bedrails and Bedrail covers are Category 4 due to instances of death related to this equipment as noted by industry safety alerts.** |

- **Advisor characteristics**
  - Participants draw on personal trial, information and peers. Supplier or self-training sufficient

- **N.B:** Low cost (< $500), basic equipment does not always indicate low risk.

- **Bedsticks & Poles are Category 3 due to actual instances of severe injury as noted by industry safety alerts.**

- **Bedrails and Bedrail covers are Category 4 due to instances of death related to this equipment as noted by industry safety alerts.**