

- **WHEELCHAIR SEATING:** CRH Physical Therapists utilize computerized pressure mapping systems to assess how a person sits in a chair. Trials are offered of different cushions to determine which provides the most pressure relief to maximize skin integrity.

- **ADAPTIVE LEISURE SKILLS :** CRH Recreational Therapists provide expertise in adaptive leisure activities and equipment. In addition, the ATC has equipment such as the Nintendo Wii to offer a leisure and fitness option as well as activities to improve balance, upper and lower extremity function, and sharpening of cognitive and visual skills, all of which increase overall safety and independence.

Funding for assistive technology evaluation, equipment, and training may be available through the California State Department of Rehabilitation, Medicare, Medi-Cal or private insurance. Please discuss your payment options with your insurance carrier and the ATC contact number listed below.

The Assistive Technology Center of CRH serves the greater tri-counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo. To receive more information, please call 805-569-8900 ext. 82402.

The Assistive Technology Center is supported in part by Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation (CRHF). The mission of CRHF is to support the acute medical rehabilitation and related programs and services of Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital. The vision of CRHF is that the highest quality medical rehabilitation programs and services remain accessible to all people with disabilities on the Central Coast.



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Assistive
TECHNOLOGY
CENTER



Assistive Technology (AT) is any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

— the Assistive Technology Act of 1998

Cottage Rehabilitation Hospital's Assistive Technology Center (ATC) offers individuals with physical and/or cognitive impairments access to devices, which support maximum function and quality of life in their homes, at work and in the community.

Highly trained and experienced therapists use a wide variety of state-of-the-art equipment to assess patients. The therapist works closely with the patient and vendors to facilitate informed decisions when choosing devices that work best for each individual.

The Assistive Technology Center provides the following services:

- **AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION:** A variety of communication aids from low-tech options such as communication boards to high-tech electronics that synthesize and/or digitize speech output are available to assist individuals in being better able to communicate.

- **COMPUTER ACCESS:** For individuals who are unable to use a standard computer, a large selection of adaptive devices and software are available to provide independent computer access. Examples of alternative access methods include adaptive mice and keyboards, voice activated systems, and head controlled and eye gaze systems.
- **HOME AUTOMATION:** In the ATC a bedroom is equipped with electronic aids for daily living activities, to demonstrate how a person with physical limitations is able to operate household electronic devices such as the TV, hospital bed, lights, telephone, and infrared operated curtains. An Environmental Control Unit (ECU) enables a person to operate devices through voice activation or the use of an adaptive switch.
- **HOME SAFETY:** Medication reminders and pendants link someone to a loved one or to an emergency response system. Monitoring systems such as wheelchair and bed alarms may decrease the potential for falls and wandering.
- **ADAPTIVE DRIVING:** This program offers clinical and on-the-road assessments of a person's physical, visual, and cognitive abilities as they relate to safe driving. The therapist may

recommend compensatory skills or adaptive equipment. The on-the-road assessment takes place in a vehicle modified with hand controls, a left foot accelerator, and steering devices to accommodate a variety of disabilities.

- **NEURO-OPTOMETRY CLINIC:** A neuro-optometrist is available on a monthly basis for inpatient consultation. Neuro-optometrists diagnose and treat vision deficits that often affect the performance of daily tasks and the optimum rehabilitation outcome. Treatment reduces or eliminates functional vision deficits and may include the use of lenses, prism patching, and/or optometric vision therapy.
- **MOBILITY TECHNOLOGY:** Assistive devices such as a foot drop system or hand rehabilitation system help individuals regain movement and maintain or increase arm and leg strength and range of motion. Neuro-prosthetic systems are used for performing functional mobility tasks such as picking up or holding objects and gait training, allowing increased mobility and independence in the home and within the community.