Decision chart: Guidance on referral criteria for specialised AAC services Start here 1. Does the person understand The person currently does not meet the eligibility criteria for No cause and effect? complex AAC assessment. Yes Please not, this does not necessarily mean that the person should not have access to AAC or other technology. It simply 2. Do they understand the purpose of a No means that they are not suitable for assessment and communication aid? provision under this service specification at this time. Other support and funding streams may be more suitable. Yes 3. Is there a clear discrepancy between the person's No level of understanding and their ability to speak? (See note on rapidly degenerative conditions below) Yes 4. Have 'low-tech' strategies and techniques been The local team should explore use of low tech strategies and No tried or considered and are there identified reasons techniques. Should reasons be identified as to why such why such methods are insufficient to meet the methods are insufficient to meet the person's person's communication needs? communication needs, consider re-referral.. Yes 5. How is the person likely to use high tech or low tech AAC in terms of language competence? 5a. Unlikely to be able to combine 5b. Likely to use complex multi-5c. Likely to be able to construct page vocabulary to combine words, phrases or symbols to novel messages using the alphabet. multiple words, phrases or create more than one concept. symbols to compile a sentence. Uses high tech aids or low tech systems to select one concept at a time. 6a. Can the person select items on a touch 6c. Can the person select items on a touch screen or keyboard with at least one hand with screen or keyboard with at least one hand with sufficient speed and endurance to meet their sufficient speed and endurance to meet their reasonable communication needs, bearing in reasonable communication needs. (See note on mind their level of language competence. rapidly degenerative conditions below). Yes No No Yes Needs should be met by Local Likely to need **Specialised Assessment.** Needs should be met by Local assessment. Local funding of NHSE funding of any required AAC equipment assessment. Local funding of any required equipment any required equipment NOTE: People with rapidly degenerative conditions can be referred before they meet all the criteria above, particularly in terms of speech and hand function (boxes 3 and 6c). The referrer and specialised AAC service team should be satisfied that they are deteriorating at a rate meaning that they are likely to meet the criteria within the time a communication aid would be provided. Although this time varies a period of 18 weeks is suggested. It is recognised that this is a difficult determination to make, but evidence of how a person has deteriorated prior to the referral should be considered. Decisions will be made on individual clinical circumstances.