



Medical Setting AAC Boards (English & Spanish)

With Contributions by Kelsey Day, M.S., CCC-SLP

The following augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) boards were developed for use in medical settings with patients unable to communicate verbally. The number scale on the left of the board is intended to communicate pain severity; the human figure may be used to localize the area of pain. Frequently requested objects and actions are found within the white cells. Requests for people (e.g., physicians, nurses, family) are found within the tan cells. Feelings are located within the yellow cells. On the second page is an alphabet board, which is organized with vowels forming a column on the left (highlighted in red).

AAC boards can be used for the following patient populations (note that this is not an exhaustive list):

- Aphonia related to the following disorders:
 - Endotracheal intubation
 - Tracheostomy/ventilator-dependency, prior to speaking valve candidacy
 - Vocal fold paralysis
 - Severe tracheal/laryngeal stenosis
- Motor speech impairment related to the following disorders:
 - Cerebrovascular accident
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Neuromuscular and neurodegenerative disorders
 - Head and neck cancer
- Aphasia related to the following disorders:
 - Cerebrovascular accident
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Brain tumors

Maintain a supply of these AAC boards in both English and Spanish within your Speech-Language Pathology department, as well as within each nursing unit of your facility. When you stock these boards in your department, be sure to educate your nursing staff on when and how to use them appropriately. This is a great opportunity for an inservice!

These boards are intended to be printed double-sided on legal size paper. For best results, laminate prior to use, work with your patient to train proper use of this board, and instruct the patient to keep their board in an easily accessible location.