

WHO CAN ACCESS OUR SERVICES

ACWC provides services to inpatients at Bridgepoint Health and outpatient services to those in the community. Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Be 18 years of age or older.
- Have an acquired physical and/or speech impairment.
- Have a congenital physical impairment and be literate (will be seen for writing aids services only).
- Have a valid OHIP card.
- Be able to attend assessment at Bridgepoint Hospital, or have access to video conference facilities

HOW TO REFER

- Inpatients: complete the inpatient ACWC referral form
- Outpatients: Complete the Ambulatory Services referral form and ACWC's Additional Applicant Information form. Referral forms are available at www.bridgepointhealth.ca or by contacting the ACWC team.

Contact Information

ACWC - Bridgepoint Hospital
14 St. Matthews Rd
Toronto, Ontario M4M 2B5
Tel 416.461.8252
Fax 416.470.6726

www.bridgepointhealth.ca

Occupational Therapist x 2149
Speech-Language Pathologist x 2854



ACWC

Augmentative Communication & Writing Aids Clinic



BRIDGEPOINT HEALTH is a publicly funded health care organization, in Toronto, that provides patient care, research and teaching in the specialized field of Complex Chronic Disease prevention and management – the biggest health care challenge of the 21st century. Affiliated with the University of Toronto, the Bridgepoint Health network includes Bridgepoint Hospital, Bridgepoint Family Health Team, the Bridgepoint Collaboratory for Research and Innovation, the Bridgepoint Health Foundation.

What is the Augmentative Communication and Writing Aids Clinic (ACWC)?

ACWC is a specialized service that addresses the communication needs of individuals with complex speech and/or physical impairments through the provision of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). ACWC was designated as an expanded level AAC Centre in 2002 by the Assistive Devices Program (ADP) of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Expanded level AAC Centres provide high technology assessments and services.



WHAT IS AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION (AAC)?

AAC is a term used to describe extra ways of helping people who find it hard to communicate by speech or writing. AAC includes gestures, strategies, materials, or technology to help people to communicate more easily.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

ACWC believes that every person has the fundamental right to communication, the right to share in decisions of care, and the right to develop and maintain social relationships.



COMMUNICATION CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO AREAS:

Face-to-Face Communication

Individuals who cannot speak or have difficulty making their speech understood may use facial expressions, pictures, symbols, objects, gestures, written words/phrases and/or communication technology as an alternative or assisted method of speaking to someone.

Written Communication

AAC also includes the use of devices (e.g. computers, alternative keyboards or mice) to assist people who have complex physical disabilities with writing. Writing needs may be for basic tasks (e.g. notes and lists), for leisure (e.g. e-mail, poetry) or for work (e.g. reports, memos). Written communication services are provided regardless of whether or not the person can speak.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

- Comprehensive interprofessional assessment of an individual's physical, speech and language needs and abilities
- Prescription of the AAC system that will best meet an individual's needs and environments
- Development of customized materials and programming of devices to meet each client's individual needs with respect to content, language and culture
- Education, training, and collaboration with clients, families, friends, and staff to assist with meeting AAC goals – ensuring everyone is part of the health care team!
- Assisting individuals with applying for ADP or 3rd party funding