



Multidisciplinary team approach The Assistive Technology Team in Europe

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Classification of Technical Aids

Council of Europe, 1992

- Equipment for treatment & rehabil.
- Prostheses & Orthoses
- Aids for personal care
- Mobility aids
- Household aids
- Equipment & adaptation of houses
- Communication aids
- Aids for handling products and articles
- Aids and equipment for improving the environment, tools & machines
- Leisure aids



Prescription Procedure of A.T.

- Clinical Team :
 - MS patient and caregiver
 - Physician
 - O.T., (P.T., Nurse, Speech therapist, Psychologist)
 - Social worker,
 - Vendor
- Procedure :
 - information
 - assessment
 - team meeting
 - training
 - selection
 - administrative procedures



Specific Role of each Team Member

- **Physician** : taking patient's history and performing the clinical examination, evaluating the health status and support services and equipment, writing the prescription after reviewing consulting reports of other team members.
- **OT, (PT, ST, N, Psy)** : assessment of functional needs, physical/psychological skills, postural adjustment, education of patient/caregiver, driving sessions, checking accuracy according to prescription at delivery.



Social worker and vendor

- **Social worker :**
 - assessment of social integration needs and skills
 - insurance coverage or availability of funding sources, coordinating MDT report
 - liaison with the family and community resources
- **Vendor :**
 - advice concerning type of orthotics, appliances, material, /modifications/accessories, availability, cost.
 - in collaboration with OT take measurements, make selection of material



Role of the Team as a whole

- Listening to the patient and helping him/her to communicate about what "works"
- evaluate the patient's physical and psychological adaptive mechanisms
- when multiple factors hampers the choice, assess the relative contribution of each factor
- advising, encouraging and supporting the disabled person in a realistic choice process



Role of education/communication/training

- role of education/communication in rehabilitation
- videotapes, database on technical appliances
- for wheelchairs : maneuverability, obstacle avoidance training
- demonstration during home visits
- involving the caregiver/family



Follow-through

- integral part of the team approach
- use of adaptive equipment must be curtailed to specific situation (improvement, deterioration)
- patient must know when to initiate a call to the centre. User evaluation by questionnaires, interviews
- regular upgrading



Compliance with therapeutic recommendation

- A patient does not always what a physician or therapist recommends (J.Basford Arch Phys Med Rehab 2002;83:433-5.)
- about 50% with exercise programs in place for 1-2 months and less than 20% as time passes
- compliance depends on :
 - educational and socio-economic background
 - perception of benefit
 - beliefs
 - force of recommendation
 - follow up



Technical Aid Distribution in Europe

- Regulations or laws governing the allocation of technical aids are quite similar
- Aids are normally provided free of charge, although exceptions are mentioned
- The aid provided by various bodies covers a very wide area :
 - social security/sickness - invalidity insurance (rates and renewal periods)
 - special legislation for disablement from industrial accidents
 - labour authorities helping to promote vocational integration
 - measures to adapt accomodation and make people with disabilities more independent



Individual Technical Assistance

- A specialized Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) recognized by the Community and selected by the disabled person
- MDT of physician, OT, social worker, psychologist, somewhile Nurse, SP or P.T. (out-patient 2-3 visits, home visit, team meeting)
- For a 4 year period a proposal is introduced by the disabled with assistance of a MDT



Individual Technical Assistance

- negotiation about allocation of yearly budget
- according to priorities retained by the disabled person regarding type of aid, and regarding type of acquisition (renting or buying of equipment)
- amount of budget according to degree of disablement

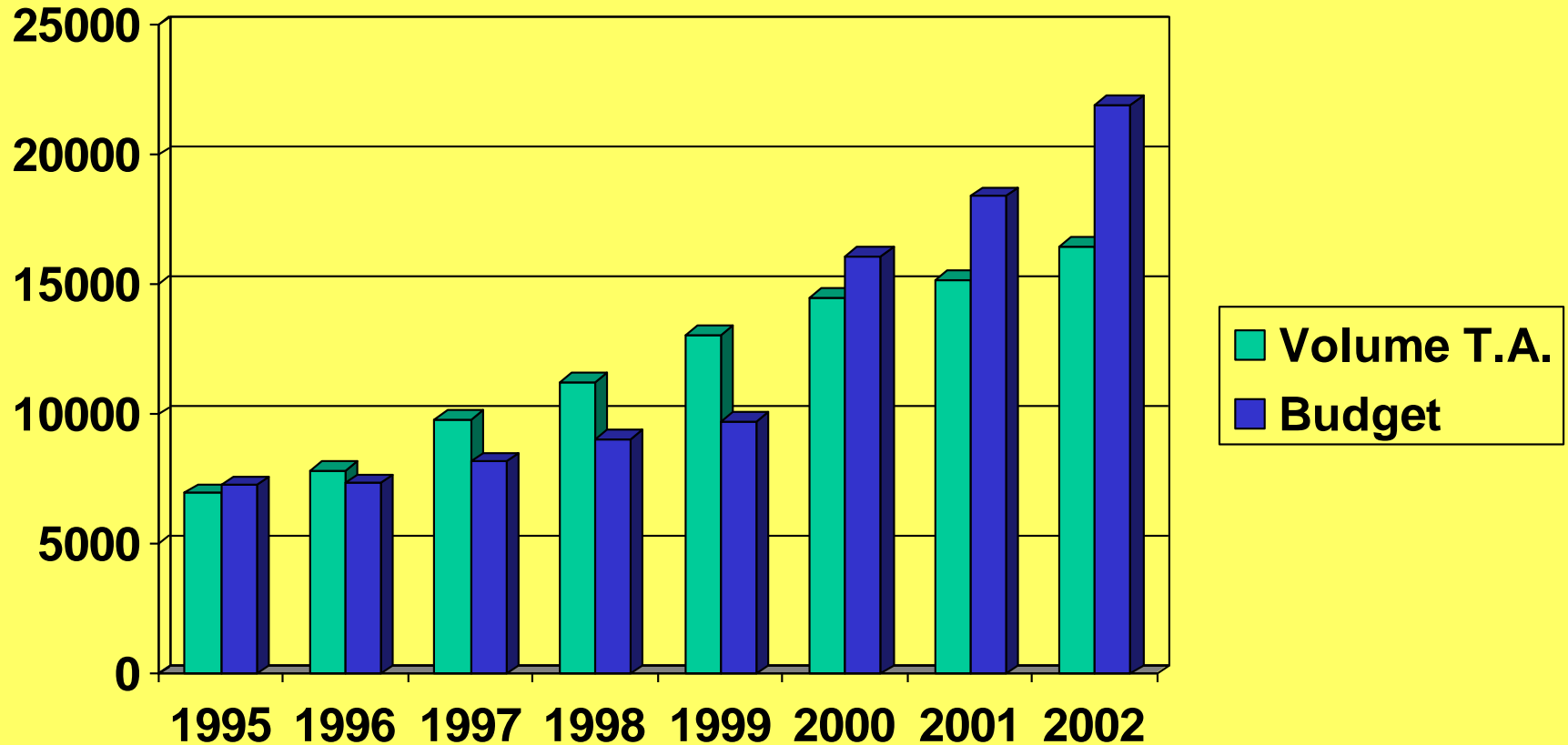


Reimbursement A.T. in Belgium (in Euro)

	Upper Limb functional loss		Lower Limb functional loss	
	partial	extensive	partial	extensive
wheelchairs			7,567	12,611
home adaptation	5,445	7,437	16,026	23,281
adaptation worksite				
car adaptation	3,625	11,311	4,533	12,939
computer accessories	1,211	6,789		
ADL	1,708		839	411
transfer			1,260	3,173
hoist				8,294
antidecubitus				2,531
special beds				2,752
anti-incontinence/year			4,848	4,848
Total	11,989	25,537	35,073	70,840



Volume of requests and financing (Mill. Euro) in Flanders (6 million inhabitants, 360.000 disabled)



Source : Flemisch Social Fund for Social Reintegration of the Handicapped person, 2002



Frequency and type of request

