

Telephones, Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) and Pagers

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Telephones

Many adaptive telephones are available for clients who may not be able to use a standard landline, cordless phone or cell phone. These include many large button phones and phones developed for persons who have hearing or visual impairments. The phones in this handout are adapted for physical limitations. Many states have funding available for adaptive phones.

The following information is not exhaustive and can always change. Check out the manufacturer websites for the very latest information.

Infrared Controlled Telephones

An infrared controlled telephone can be used by virtually any Electronic Daily Living Aid (EADL, formally Environmental Controls), Speech Generating Device or Power Wheelchair that can send an infrared signal.

<p>GewaTel 200 ZYGO Industries, Inc., 800-234-6006, www.zygo-usa.com <i>Pros:</i> full telephone control using IR signals, headset, display <i>Cons:</i> expensive. This is a Konftel 200 phone with remote that can be purchased from other internet sources for a lesser cost.</p>	
<p>Infrared Home or Office Accessible Landline Telephone Broadened Horizons, 612-851-1040, www.broadenedhorizons.com <i>Pros:</i> full telephone control using IR signals, headset, display, voice control when used with voice dialer. Switch adapted version, as well. <i>Cons:</i> expensive. This is a Konftel 200 phone with remote that can be purchased from other internet sources for a lesser cost.</p>	
<p>Sero! Telephone AbleNet, Inc., 800-322-0956, www.ablenetinc.com <i>Pros:</i> full telephone control, can be operated by Jive! and Primo! EADLs, 50 user-recordable phrases to convey messages over the phone, answering machine, Emergency Dial number, help call function dials up to 8 contacts until a response is registered, more. <i>Cons:</i> expensive.</p>	


Switch Controlled Telephones

Switch controlled telephones typically offer less features than infrared or voice controlled phone, but cost much less. These are controlled by pressing a button on a pendant or using any mechanical switch placed in any location that plugs into the pendant. The switch adapted pendant can be interfaced through power wheelchair electronics.

<p>Able-Phone Model 1900 Able-Phone, 530-846-7466, www.ablephone.com <i>Pros:</i> puff to answer, hang up and sip to dial operator. <i>Cons:</i> operator required to dial number, only accepts pneumatic switch input.</p>	 A beige, desktop-style telephone with a coiled handset and a numeric keypad. The brand name 'ABLE-PHONE 1900' is visible on the front panel.
<p>Click To Phone Broadened Horizons, 612-851-1040, www.broadenedhorizons.com <i>Pros:</i> works with Android OS cell phone, switch controlled, full control, text messages <i>Cons:</i> expensive</p>	 A black smartphone is connected to a small black rectangular device labeled 'ClickToPhone'. A green circular button is connected to the device via a cable.
<p>Fortissimo Clarity, www.clarityproducts.com <i>Pros:</i> switch access to start or end call, retrieve messages or dial from phone book, wireless headset option, updated version of the Dialogue 200. <i>Cons:</i> pendant required for switch access and remote use, includes microphone and jacks for a headset or switch.</p>	 A black, ruggedized telephone with a large red circular speaker on the left side. The keypad has large, tactile buttons. A digital display shows '12:00 am' and '4 New Calls'.
<p>RCx-1000 Remote Control Speakerphone Serene Innovations, www.harriscomm.com <i>Pros:</i> 32 pre-programmed numbers, remote pendant is switch accessible. First activation scans numbers, seconds selects. Pendant also answers phone. <i>Cons:</i> not portable Very similar to discontinued Dialogue 200</p>	 A white, desktop speakerphone with a numeric keypad and several function buttons. A small white remote pendant is shown next to it.



Voice Controlled Telephones – Switch Required

Many cell phones provide voice control, but a button must be pressed first. Here are some options to provide complete voice control.

<p>Able-Phone Model AP 1000 Able-Phone, 530-846-7466, www.ablephone.com Able-Phone carries several voice controlled telephones that either require a switch or a whistle to “wake up” system. <i>Pros:</i> voice dialing up to 60 numbers, speak name to dial <i>Cons:</i> must use switch to “wake up” system, no headset for portable use</p>	
<p>Able-Phone Model AP 100 Able-Phone, 530-846-7466, www.ablephone.com <i>Pros:</i> voice dialing up to 60 numbers, speak name to dial, portable. <i>Cons:</i> must use whistle to “wake up” system.</p>	
<p>Communicator SAJE Technology, 847-756-7603, www.saje-tech.com <i>Pros:</i> Full phone function control, speak person’s name or individual digits to place call, headset, connects to computer, 500 foot range. <i>Cons:</i> must use switch to “wake up” system.</p>	
<p>VoiceBT Switch Adapted Bluetooth Cell Phone Voice Dialer Broadened Horizons, 612-851-1040, www.broadenedhorizons.com <i>Pros:</i> any switch can be used to access voice control on any cell phone. Inexpensive compared to other options. Optional headset. <i>Cons:</i> requires switch.</p>	
<p>NoButtonsHeadset www.nobuttonsheadset.com <i>Pros:</i> uses Bluetooth cell phone headset, user turns head so that headset passes within 1” of supplied magnet to initiate or end call. The rest of control is by phone. Works with any phone. <i>Cons:</i> Client may accidentally initiate or end call if they get close to magnet. Based on BlueAnt Q1 and Q2 which is less costly from other sources, but does not include magnet on gooseneck.</p>	




Voice Controlled Telephones – No Switch Required

Here are some options to provide complete voice control without a switch.

<p>Able-Phone Model AP-7000VC Able-Phone, 530-846-7466, www.ablephone.com Pros: voice dialing up to 60 numbers, speak name to dial, only voice required, no switch or whistle. Cons: not portable.</p>	 A black rectangular device with a numeric keypad and a small display screen, labeled 'ABLE PHONE'.
<p>Vocalize! Broadened Horizons, 612-851-1040, www.broadenedhorizons.com <i>Pros:</i> for cell phones, voice only, switch option if desired (but not required), charger, privacy earphone, includes mount for cell phone <i>Cons:</i> expensive</p>	 A device consisting of a microphone on a stand, a base unit with a small screen, and various cables and accessories.


Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)

Some clients do not have an accessible phone, but may need to place a call or alert others in an emergency. The caregiver may not be in the home or may be incapacitated.

<p>Responsible AbleNet, Inc., 800-322-0956, www.ablenetinc.com <i>Pros:</i> pendant button push calls up to 4 pre-programmed numbers (911 can be one option), Pendant also 2 way speakerphone, pendant activation answers phone, switch adaptation option, no monthly fee, inexpensive. <i>Cons:</i> would be great to have a prerecorded message option for non-verbal clients.</p>	
<p>TalkSafe Broadened Horizons, 612-851-1040, www.broadenedhorizons.com <i>Pros:</i> button press or switch activation to automatically call 1-9 contacts and play pre-recorded message in emergency. Speakerphone allows recipient to talk to caller. Optional headset. 2 versions. <i>Cons:</i></p>	
<p>Lifeline and similar programs Lifeline, www.lifelinesys.com <i>Pros:</i> allows the client to alert others to an emergency. <i>Cons:</i> monthly fee, call often goes to a call center first, client must be able to press a button on a pendant.</p>	

Pagers/Call Systems

Pagers can alert caregivers that a client needs help when the caregiver is in the immediate area, but may not be able to hear the client. This could be used at night when the caregiver is sleeping in another room, if the caregiver is out of hearing range or in vibrate mode if the caregiver would not hear the pager (i.e. vacuuming).

<p>Attendant Call Chime Enabling Devices, www.enablingdevices.com <i>Pros:</i> press a button or use any switch to activate, receiver chimes up to 40 feet away. <i>Cons:</i> would be nice to have vibrate and lights, as well.</p>	
<p>Personal Pager Adaptivation, www.adaptivation.com <i>Pros:</i> worn by caregiver, chime or vibrate mode, activated when client presses button or switch, 75 foot range. <i>Cons:</i> small range, would be nice to have lights, as well. Also available from Enabling Devices.</p>	