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What higher-risk assistive technology is

Higher-risk assistive technology is an item, equipment or device that needs specialised advice to buy, set up and use safely.

You'll generally need an assessment from an assistive technology advisor or assistive technology assessor to make sure you get the right item for your needs.

It might be a regulated item

Items regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in Australia are considered higher-risk.

It may cause harm if used incorrectly

You could risk injury if higher-risk assistive technology isn’t set up or used safely.

> **Tip: What is low-risk assistive technology?**
>
> Low-risk assistive technology comes with a low risk of harm when used in a daily living environment. You won’t need too much advice or setup support from assistive technology advisors to use them safely. For example, a non-slip bathmat or a shower stool.

What higher-risk assistive technology is for

Higher-risk assistive technology is for equipment that’s:

- complex, like a power wheelchair
- known to have caused harm
- used to restrict voluntary movement, like bed rails or weighted blankets.

Examples include:

- adjustable beds
- bed sticks and other transfer aids
- motor vehicle adaptions
- complex bathing and toileting devices
- pressure care devices
- prosthetics or orthotics
- devices to support breathing.

What higher-risk assistive technology is like

It doesn’t always depend on cost

High-cost assistive technology, like a powered wheelchair would be considered higher-risk.

Some low-cost items can be higher-risk, like bed poles and weighted blankets.

Understanding risk

You’ll need to know how to use your assistive technology safely and understand any risks.

You’ll need written advice to buy or rent higher-risk assistive technology.

> **Tip: Funding to find the right solution**
>
> Your plan will also include funding to seek advice from an assistive technology advisor if you have assistive technology funded in your plan.

Our Guideline

Download the assistive technology guideline:

- Assistive technology guideline (PDF 290.21 KB)
- Assistive technology guideline (DOCX 103.58 KB)

Related information

What is assistive technology

What is an assistive technology advisor

What is an assistive technology assessor

This page current as of
16 July 2026