

Switching and getting unstuck – The Switching Access Measure (SAM) Journey

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Short Abstract

Switching can be difficult. Despite many advances in access technologies including eye gaze, for some, switching still remains their only viable control method. For these users, achieving the best switch access possible can be life changing but getting it right can be difficult. Where to start? We have a switch, what next? When and how to change tack? This was a common issue identified by Novita therapists.

The Switch Access Measure has been developed by Novita in association with Professor Virginia Wright. The measure was initially developed due to lack of an objective outcome measure and therapists feeling “stuck” with their interventions despite significant time investment, often years. The Switch Access Measure was designed to give an overall picture of the user’s motor, visual and process (cognitive) skills when interacting with switch access technology and devices.

It provides evidence that therapists can use to determine the user’s strengths and weaknesses and to recommend and develop targeted priorities for intervention.

Ultimately, the Switch Access Measure aims to deliver better outcomes for users and their families.

Discover how this measure has shaped the interventions provided as an organisation. From case studies we will share learnings along the way from design to implementation and review how we have supported therapists and users to become “unstuck” with their switching journey.

Long Abstract