



## General FAQs

### The Multidimensional Task Ability Profile

## How do I learn more about MTAP?

There are many resources on the MTAP website to familiarize you and your staff with the MTAP including:

- These FAQs (you are reading now)
- Clinical FAQs
- MTAP User Manual
- MTAP Clinical Manuals
- MTAP Support Videos (user manual and clinical)
- Research Articles

## Does MTAP require a software download?

There is no download. MTAP is a cloud-based system.

## What are the technical requirements for MTAP?

MTAP Web System is strictly an online platform that can be accessed from any computer or device with an Internet connection. MTAP web is fully HIPPA compliant.

Recommendations for optimization include:

- A clinic Internet connection (Wi-Fi or hard line connection)
- A tablet (screen sizes recommended- 9.7", 10.1", 12.2"), a laptop or a desktop computer with access for patients to take MTAP Assessments.

## What is the Vert Mooney Research Foundation?

The Vert Mooney Research Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to research and education. It is based in San Diego County, California, and was founded in 1994 by Vert Mooney, MD, a world-renowned orthopedic surgeon and clinical researcher. The foundation was formerly named the UCSD Ortho-Med and subsequently the Spine and Sport Foundation.

Our mission is to develop, test, and implement strategies to improve quality of life and physical function through clinical research, community outreach, and other knowledge translation efforts. Some recent accomplishments include: innovative research in the areas of patient-reported outcome measures, spinal injury prevention and rehabilitation, and hosting quarterly educational seminars for physical medicine healthcare providers. Other activities include, but are not limited to; research support, consulting, educational symposia, grant writing, preparation and funding.

Research collaborations have involved the University of California, San Diego, University of South Florida, National Institutes of Health and the Wellness Fitness Initiative for Firefighters (WFI). Sponsorship for the WFI has come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA awards).

## How do MTAP funds support the Vert Mooney Research Foundation?

The Vert Mooney Foundation membership donation is primarily used to support continued research and development of MTAP, musculoskeletal related research and costs for scientific publications and presentations. As an MTAP subscriber you and your clinic become members of the Vert Mooney Research Foundation.

## Who should administer MTAP in our treatment center?

Your front office staff optimally performs MTAP patient set-up and then completed assessment reports can be printed and made available to the provider for evaluation. The provider then reviews and incorporates the reports into clinical practice and reporting.

## Can MTAP be used for Medicare patients?

Yes. Insurance Payers are demanding that providers document functional improvement and outcomes. In fact, starting July 2013 Medicare claims for therapy services must include a functional status measure or they will be rejected (Outpatient Therapy of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule-CMS-1590FC). Historically, the approach has been paper and pen outcomes questionnaires. These questionnaires such as the SF-36 and Oswestry may be impractical for outpatient providers:

- 1) No printable reports; not billable
- 2) The need to manually calculate which is error prone
- 3) Does not support Medicare severity modifiers
- 4) Difficult and time consuming to score assessments; slows down practice flow
- 5) Not available or adapted to the Spanish language
- 6) None provide a simple report card given to the patient to stimulate dialogue between patient and care provider

In contrast MTAP delivers a simple easy to use system that helps the provider meet today's practice demands by streamlining practice flow and documentation, improving accurate patient assessment and care, ultimately leading to increased provider reimbursement. MTAP also has a specialized report to comply with Medicare Functional Limitation Reporting with G-code severity modifier selection. MTAP is currently validated for English and Spanish speaking populations.

MTAP may be used for any patient population with a musculoskeletal condition including patient in payer systems such as Workers' Compensation, Commercial Health Plans, Personal Injury, Medicare etc.

## How often should I use MTAP for a patient?

In our experience it is best to establish MTAP as an office protocol for all new patients regardless of the payer type. This serves to create an office flow and maximizes the utilization of MTAP. MTAP is a global functional assessment and therefore it is an appropriate assessment for any individual with a musculoskeletal diagnosis. It is recommended to use MTAP as a baseline measure of function and every 30 days following the initial assessment to determine progress in treatment. MTAP can also be utilized as a single assessment in conjunction with FCE or Medical-Legal Assessment.

## Will you help us with the billing codes?

The Vert Mooney Foundation does not provide specific coding or legal advice. Healthcare providers who seek reimbursement for use of the MTAP test should follow the direction of coding and legal experts familiar with the policies of the specific third party from whom they seek reimbursement. It is the health care practitioners responsibility to document medical necessity of services rendered. The Vert Mooney Foundation provides the medical necessity general guidance, access to the MTAP Web-based System, reporting and documentation related to measured function.

## Is MTAP Billable?

MTAP may be a billable service for most providers (MD, DO, DC, PT, OT) subject to medical necessity and documentation of specific service provided. MTAP may be reimbursable by many payer systems subject to provider scope of practice, policy benefits / limitations, and medical necessity.

## Is MTAP Reliable?

Yes, highly reliable ( $r = 0.98$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and highly correlated with actual physical function as assessed during objective FCE lifting tasks ( $r = 0.89$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

## Is MTAP Practical?

MTAP is practical for use in small, medium and large clinical settings alike by providing automated scoring and reporting.

## Is MTAP Motivational?

Yes, MTAP helps motivate patients and enhances communication and patient-centered care by focusing on function.

## Has MTAP been validated against other outcome measures?

Yes, against: Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), Roland Morris and Oswestry Disability Index. MTAP is valid and highly sensitive to functional changes when compared to the above outcome measures. Continued research is in progress to further validate against SF12 and various other outcome tools.

## Does MTAP meet the latest requirements for objective functional outcomes?

Yes, MTAP meets the new recommendations for documentation of objective functional outcomes (Medicare, ODG/Chronic Pain, ACOEM, AMA Guidelines 5th and 6th editions).

## Does MTAP help define treatment protocols?

Yes, and MTAP enhances patient-centered clinical care: Helps with defining treatment protocols (identifies problematic ADLs, correlates with rehab goals and objectives). Emphasizes physical function.

## Can MTAP help with Medical necessity justification?

Yes MTAP may assist medical necessity justification by establishing baseline and a change in function.

## Can MTAP be used in Med-Legal Reports?

Yes, MTAP helps with Med-Legal reports by translating impairment into functional loss as recommended by the AMA 5th and 6th editions Guidelines for Impairment Ratings. Essentially, MTAP features and benefits are summarized in three user-friendly reports: a Patient Report Card, Workability Report and a Health and Behavioral Assessment (Item Test Score).

## Why does my order email statement say \$0.00 was charged?

If you received an email stating “Your Order at MTAP” your order was successfully placed and the MTAP subscription was purchased. Your first payment will be charged when your initial trial period is over.

## What passwords do I need to remember regarding my account?

You will need to recall your user name (the email address used to create the account), your password and the pin number that you created in your system profile.

## What types of cases are appropriate for MTAP?

You may use MTAP for any cases you treat in your practice, not just ALIGN cases. Your MTAP system is your own private web-based clinical outcomes system.

## Should we submit MTAP reports to payers and networks?

Yes. In fact it is highly encouraged to submit MTAP reports along with your clinical reports. It is also recommended to document MTAP findings in your clinical reports and well as document the provider-patient discussion of MTAP findings in your reports. MTAP can assist with medical justification and reimbursement including Medicare cases.

## What is the difference between the MTAP software version and MTAP 2 Web Version?

The MTAP 2 (From the Vert Mooney Foundation) is a web-based system, which gives the user the following benefits:

- The web platform does not require software to be downloaded.
- Real time updates and system improvements can be made without the need for a software download, which results in continuous enhancements and updates.
- The older software version does not include the Workability Report capabilities or Medicare Functional Reporting capabilities.

The software version is not actively being utilized through the Vert Mooney Research Foundation.

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