

Functional Electronic Stimulation for Drop Foot

Commissioning decision

Gloucestershire ICB will provide funding for Functional Electronic Stimulation for patients with drop foot of central neurological origin who as defined by NICE.

Policy Statement:

The ICB will fund Functional Electronic Stimulation for drop foot provided there is neurological deficit due to an upper motor neurone lesion.

- An upper motor neurone lesion is defined as one that occurs in the brain or spinal cord at or above the level of T12
- Upper motor neurone lesions that may benefit from FES are stroke, multiple sclerosis, incomplete spinal cord injury at T12 or above, cerebral palsy, familial / hereditary spastic paraparesis, head injury and Parkinson's disease

Rationale:

The use of skin surface applied FES as an orthotic intervention to improve walking impaired by foot drop of central neurological origin will be commissioned by the ICB as per NICE Guidance.

Plain English Summary:

Drop foot is the inability to lift the foot and toes when walking. Drop foot can be caused by upper or lower motor neurone lesions. Functional electrical stimulation is used to treat the effects of upper motor neurone lesions that can result from conditions such as stroke, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, or spinal cord injury but may occur in other conditions. Functional electrical stimulation involves stimulation of the peripheral nerves that supply the paralysed muscle using electrodes that may be implanted or placed on the surface of the skin. The aim is to restore muscular function. Functional electrical stimulation is not normally suitable for patients with lower motor neurone lesions.

Functional electrical stimulation is only funded as per NICE guidelines for patients with drop foot of central neurological origin.

All other requests outside of NICE criteria will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. You clinician can submit an Individual Funding Request application to the ICB in order to seek funding approval for your surgery.

Policy Category:**CBA/INNF****Who usually applies for funding?****Consultant****Evidence base:**

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE
 IPG278): <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/IPG278>

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

Date of publication	January 2018
Policy review date	March 2026

Policy sign off:

Reviewing Body	Date of review
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	30/11/2017
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	7/12/2017

Version Control:

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
1		Jan 2018	
2	Review date only	Jan 2020	Policy review date changed to Jan 2023.
3	Review date only	21.03.2023	Policy review date changed to Mar 2026.