

Commissioning Policy

Functional Electronic Stimulation for Drop Foot

(CBA/INNF)

Date adopted:

Version: 4

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Functional Electronic Stimulation for Drop Foot (FES)
Job title of author:	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group (CPRG)

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
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Consultation	
Name of group	Date considered

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System Quality Committee	07.12.2017

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To be reviewed by (job title)	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
		January 2018		
2	January 2020	Review date only, no change to policy criteria	IFR Manager	ECCP
3	21.01.2023	Review date only, no change to policy criteria	IFR Manager	CPRG
4	23.03.26	Review date agreed of March 2029. No changes to policy criteria. New policy template adopted.	IFR Manager	CPRG

1.0 Background

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.

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

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.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy details

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

3.0 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the ICB's Individual Funding Request Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

4.0 Connected policies

None

5.0 References

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