



North East and North Cumbria

Our Reference North East & North Cumbria
ICB FOI 355

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19 May 2023

By Email

Dear Ms

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information – NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Thank you for your request received by North of England Commissioning Support (NECS) on 03 May 2023 for information held by NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB) under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NENC ICB covers the areas of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Cumbria, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Tees Valley.

Please find the information you requested on behalf of the ICB as follows.

Your Request

Please can you provide me with the following information:

1. The Current Clinical Commissioning Policy for Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) for adults and children for drop foot of central neurological origin and upper limb dysfunction for ICB area QHM North East & North Cumbria including former CCGs listed below:

North Cumbria
County Durham
Newcastle & Gateshead
North Tyneside
Northumberland
South Tyneside
Sunderland
Tees Valley

2. When is the current FES Clinical Commissioning policy due for review?

3. Please confirm the name of the Clinical Commissioner with responsibility for this area.

Our Response

Please see policy detail below. Please note, this information is freely available on the NENC ICB website.

1. See below

Functional Electrical Stimulation for Drop Foot	Category: <i>(IFR / Prior Approval / Monitored Approval)</i>	Monitored Approval
	Local or National EBI (Evidence Based Interventions) Policy:	Local
<p>Background:</p> <p>Functional electrical stimulation (FES) is a treatment that uses the application of small electrical charges to improve mobility. It is particularly used as a treatment for drop foot. Drop foot is caused by disruption in the nerve pathway to and from the brain, rather than in nerves within the leg muscles.</p>		
<p>Policy:</p> <p>Non-Implantable Devices:</p> <p>Functional Electrical Stimulation for drop foot is routinely commissioned with the non-implantable device, in line with NICE IPG278, providing normal arrangements are in place for clinical governance, consent and audit, and provided ALL of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drop foot is impeding gait and in whom the use of all orthotics (AFO) has proven to be unsuccessful following specialist assessment; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient has demonstrable functional improvement from an individual trial of FES; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intervention is recommended by a multidisciplinary team specialised in rehabilitation. <p>Implantable Devices:</p> <p>The wireless or implantable device is NOT routinely commissioned. Funding will only be considered where there are exceptional clinical circumstances. The clinician needs to submit an application to the Individual Funding Request Panel.</p>		

Functional Electrical Stimulation for issues other than Drop Foot	Category: <i>(IFR / Prior Approval / Monitored Approval)</i>	Monitored Approval
	Local or National EBI (Evidence Based Interventions) Policy:	Local
Background: Functional electrical stimulation (FES) is a treatment that uses the application of small electrical charges to improve motor function in weak or flaccid muscles. It can be used in rehabilitation of the upper limb as part of a motor training programme.		
Policy: Functional Electrical Stimulation may be offered for issues other than drop foot to patients only where the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The request is being made for a patient following an upper limb, upper motor neurone impairment AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient has demonstrable functional improvement from a trial of FES (within a 4 week period) AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the recommendation for FES is made by a specialist rehabilitation team for the upper limb as part of a motor training programme 		

2. *The Value Based Clinical Commissioning Policy is reviewed twice yearly. Any changes in guidance for FES, would be considered during this period and the policy amended accordingly.*

3. *Dr John Warrington is the Value Based Clinical Commissioning Steering Group Chair.*

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the NHS ICB website <https://northeastnorthcumbria.nhs.uk/>.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to the Senior Governance Manager using the contact details at the top of this letter quoting the appropriate reference number.

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the North of England Commissioning Support Unit.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Any information we provide following your request under the Freedom of Information Act will not confer an automatic right for you to re-use that information, for example to publish it. If you wish to re-use the information that we provide and you do not specify this in your initial application for information then you must make a further request for its re-use as per the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 www.legislation.gov.uk . This will not affect your initial information request.

Yours sincerely

Pamela Coxon

Pamela Coxon
Information Governance Officer