



**Dorset  
Clinical Commissioning Group**

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

# Functional Electronic Stimulation (FES)

## Criteria Based Access Protocol



**Supporting people in Dorset to lead healthier lives**

## **NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

### **FUNCTIONAL ELECTRONIC STIMULATION (FES) CRITERIA BASED ACCESS PROTOCOL**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE**

- 1.1 NHS Dorset CCG referred people historically to Odstock Medical Services for Functional Electronic Stimulation (FES). These services are only provided to patients that had ongoing treatment prior to the development of a commissioning position.
- 1.2 The Pan-Dorset Technologies Forum reviewed the evidence in 2012 and NHS Dorset CCG agreed that no new patients would be referred for treatment by FES.
- 1.3 Public Health undertook a literature review in September 2015 on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of FES for patients with drop foot. Following evaluation of the literature review, NHS Dorset CCG made no amendments to the access criteria for treatment by FES.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 Any definitions related to this Criteria Based Access Protocol are included as a Glossary at Appendix A.

#### **3. ACCESS CRITERIA**

- 3.1 For patients already being treated, the following access criteria apply:
  - Documented history of tripping, falling, gait problems;
  - Full range of ankle dorsal flexion/good calf tone/absence of severe spasticity and lower limb oedema.
- 3.2 Patients will only be considered for ongoing funding by NHS Dorset CCG if they meet both these criteria.

#### **4. EXCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 No new patients will be referred for FES treatment.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the following are specifically excluded:
  - Treatment using FES of anything other than the lower limbs;
  - Implanted FES (also known as SIMUSTEP).

#### **5. CASES FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 Should a patient not meet the criteria detailed within this protocol, the Policy for Individual Patient Treatments (which is available on the NHS Dorset Clinical

Commissioning Group website or upon request), recognises that there will be occasions when patients who are not considered for funding may have good clinical reasons for being treated as exceptions. In such cases the requesting clinician must provide further information to support the case for being considered as an exception.

- 5.2 The fact that treatment is likely to be effective for a patient is not, in itself a basis for exceptional circumstances. In order for funding to be agreed there must be some unusual or unique clinical factor in respect of the patient that suggests that they are:
- significantly different to the general population of patients with the particular condition; and
  - they are likely to gain significantly more benefits from the intervention than might be expected for the average patient with the condition

- 5.3 In these circumstances, please refer to the Individual Patient Treatment Team at the address below:

First Floor West  
Vespasian House  
Barrack Road  
Dorchester  
DT1 1TG  
Telephone no: 01305 368936  
Email: [individual.requests@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:individual.requests@dorsetccg.nhs.uk)

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A literature review was undertaken in September 2015 to ascertain whether there were any new implications on the FES protocol that had been in place from September 2012.
- 6.2 Prior to approval from Dorset CCG's Clinical Commissioning Committee this Protocol was reviewed by the Long Term Conditions and Frail Elderly CDG.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment for this Criteria Based Access Protocol is available on request.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 7.1 As documented in NHS Dorset CCG's 'Procedure for the management and development of procedural documents', Criteria Based Access Protocols must be formally recommended by the Clinical Delivery Group responsible for the protocol, prior to formal approval by the Clinical Commissioning Committee.

## **8. COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION**

- 8.1 Following approval of Criteria Based Access Protocols at Clinical Commissioning Committee each Protocol will be uploaded to the CCG's Intranet, Internet and added to the next GP Bulletin.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 9.1 Following review of this Criteria Based Access Protocol it was agreed there were no new aspects to be included in this version and therefore no requirement for an implementation plan.

## **10. DOCUMENT REVIEW FREQUENCY AND VERSION CONTROL**

- 10.1 This Criteria Based Access Protocol requires a review every three years, or in the event of any changes to national guidance or when new guidance is issued.

**GLOSSARY**

**N/A**

APPENDIX B

A DOCUMENT DETAILS	
Procedural Document Number	97
Author (Name and Job Title)	Nichola Arathoon, Principle Programme Lead
Clinical Delivery Group (recommending group)	Long Term Conditions, Frail Elderly and End of Life
Date of recommendation by CDG	December 2015
Date of approval by CCC	17 February 2016
Version	Version 5
Review frequency	3 yearly
Review date	December 2018

B CONSULTATION PROCESS			
Version No	Review Date	Author and Job Title	Level of Consultation
V5	December 2015	Nichola Arathoon, Principle Programme Lead	Literature review undertaken by Public Health Dorset on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of FES for patients with drop foot. Report evaluated and summarised by Dorset CCG.

C VERSION CONTROL					
Date of recommendation	Version No	Review date	Nature of change	Approval date	Approval Committee
November 2015	V5	December 2015	Protocol format and review update added.		CDG

D ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy for individual patient treatment, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>Making sense of Local Access Based Protocols, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul>

E SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/EVIDENCE BASED REFERENCES		
Evidence	Hyperlink (if available)	Date
Use of Functional Electronic Stimulation in Adults with Drop-Foot: A Literature Review By Dr Caoimhe O Sullivan, Public Health Dorset		September 2015
Review of FES for Drop Foot Criteria Based Access Protocol – Evaluation of literature review. By Nichola Arathoon, NHS Dorset CCG		October 2015

G DISTRIBUTION LIST			
Internal CCG Intranet	CCG Internet Website	Communications Bulletin	External stakeholders
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