NHS
Swindon
Clinical Commissioning Group

Functional electrical stimulation for drop foot (FES)

PRIOR APPROVAL

There is limited clinical evidence to support the use of FES but conservative modelling shows that it is likely to be a cost-effective intervention. FES using skin surface electrodes will be commissioned for patients meeting all of the following criteria:

- The patient has foot drop caused by upper level nerve damage
- Patient's gait is not satisfactorily controlled using ankle–foot orthoses
- There is documented evidence that foot drop has caused trips or falls and gait issues causing significant clinical problems
- The patient can physically manage a FES (+/- minimal assistance)
- Clear treatment goals and expectations of benefit have been outlined to the patient

FES using implantable electrodes will only be commissioned if the patient meets the criteria for surface stimulation but is unable to continue its use due to clinical problems and there is evidence of benefit from using FES.

Providers of FES services should seek prior approval from the commissioners for new patients that they consider suitable for treatment.