

INTRODUCTION

Extended Health Benefits Information Bulletins are distributed by the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch to provide program updates or to address specific issues. This bulletin is being distributed to announce the addition of functional electrical stimulation devices for foot drop as a new cost-shared benefit under the Prosthetics and Orthotics Program.

PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS PROGRAM

The Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Prosthetics and Orthotics Program provides assistance with the cost of a range of prosthetic and orthotic devices. Effective July 10, 2014, functional electrical stimulation (FES) devices for foot drop were added to the list of program benefits.

FES devices must be requisitioned by the same specialist physicians who have requisitioning authority for ankle foot orthoses. To qualify for an FES device, clients must:

1. Have an upper motor neuron injury or disease or central nervous system involvement;
2. Have inadequate dorsiflexion during swing;
3. Have adequate stability during stance as determined by an FES-trained clinician;
4. Have adequate response to nerve stimulation as determined by an FES-trained clinician;
5. Demonstrate the ability and willingness to use an FES device;
6. Demonstrate the positive impact that use of an FES device will have on activities of daily living through a successful trial; and
7. Not have any of the following contraindications:
 - lower motor neuron deficit;
 - history of grand mal seizures;
 - severe cardiac disease or other diagnosed heart conditions;
 - a demand-type pacemaker or defibrillator;
 - fixed plantar flexion contractures;
 - currently pregnant or planning a pregnancy; or
 - a malignant tumour, lesion or open wound on affected leg.

Eligible clients receive funding towards the purchase of an FES device for foot drop to a maximum of \$3,500.00 once every five years and assistance with the cost of FES electrodes to a maximum of \$5.00 per electrode.

For more information regarding FES and the Prosthetics and Orthotics Program, please visit <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/sail>.

CONTACT US

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