

Director: Dr Ajoy Nair MD, FRCP

Alderbourne Rehabilitation Unit
The Hillingdon Hospital
Pield Heath Road
UXBRIDGE
Middlesex
UB8 3NN

Direct Phone: 01895-279158

Direct Fax: 01895-279737

Appendix 6

GUIDELINES & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PRESCRIPTION OF EC EQUIPMENT for Residents in England in North Thames

Definition

Environmental Control Systems enable people with severe physical disabilities who cannot use conventional equipment (Eg; telephone, door entry intercom, television remote controls, computer keyboard) to maintain a degree of independence in accordance with NHS England Service specification for EC (D01/S/c)

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/npc-crg/group-d/d01/>

EC provision will be for people who are residents in England and who meet the following criteria

1. **A long term, profound and potentially complex physical disability, caused by disease, injury or congenital defect such that they are unable to operate standard controls for functioning independently in the home**
2. **Physically and cognitively able to operate an EC system consistently and independently**
3. **Able to demonstrate sustained motivation to use the EC equipment for independent control**
4. **Individuals requiring multiple control functions integrated into a single means of access and for whom multiple devices, each with separate function are inappropriate.**
5. **Agree to abide by the locally determined conditions of the loan of the equipment.**

Exclusion Criteria;

1. Where non-specialist solutions to the identified needs of the patient are available and appropriate for the individual.
2. The individual patient does not have the cognitive ability or motivation to learn to operate the EC equipment. This shall normally be established through a period of trial of some sample solution of equipment.
3. Provision of equipment is inappropriate due to social, environmental or other circumstances.
4. Where the referred need is for equipment primarily for educational ICT or, employment 'access to work' requirement, then the referral will normally be referred to the relevant agencies for assessment and provision. Collaboration with these agencies may still be appropriate.
5. Cases where the primary need is for communication will normally be considered as suitable for referral for to Community or Specialist AAC Service

Guidance Notes on Criteria

- These criteria are guidelines and each case will be assessed and prioritised on its own merits. Those with rapidly deteriorating conditions and those living or left alone for substantial periods are considered high priority.
- There are no age limits for EC provision, but prescription for young children and the elderly will have regard to the degree of independence likely to be obtained as assessed by the multi-disciplinary team

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GUIDELINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PRESCRIPTION OF EC EQUIPMENT
for Residents in England in North Thames(continued)

- Where individuals have a variable condition (eg: a progressive neurological condition), the above criteria can be applied with regard to the person's anticipated needs and abilities within a clinically appropriate time period. Referrals can be accepted on this basis.
- EC equipment prescription is usually for substantial need;
 - Alarm or other means of summoning assistance, especially in emergency
 - Control of door access
 - Control of motorised bed or chair for comfort or pain relief
 - Independent control to ensure mental and emotional wellbeing
- Provision may continue where the need is less than substantial, but where such use may be required and added at a later date as use of the system develops
- Prescription on grounds of health will take into account mental, emotional and social needs. It is recognised that in some instances there is a requirement for some independent control, even in the presence of fulltime carers. Also that provision of a device which reduces the need for personal care can result in increased social isolation. These factors will be taken into account at assessment and prescription.
- If there is any doubt about the individual's ability or motivation to use an EC system, a trial of a temporary unit may be provided as part of the assessment process.
- EC equipment is not suitable for control of life sustaining equipment (eg: respirator) or to relieve the requirement for medically critical care
- In the case of appeal of an assessment outcome, a second opinion may be sought from a neighbouring assessor
- **Peripheral equipment** e.g. profiling beds, riser/recliner chairs, curtain controls, door/window openers, appropriate door locks and replacement door lock mechanisms, page turners computers etc may be controlled, if compatible, via the EC system **but must be funded through other sources.**
- **Additional electrical power sockets** and telephone sockets required for EC provision are **not** provided by RECES nor Electrician and Joinery/Locksmith Services.
- **Integrated systems**
Where the user has, in addition to the need for EC, a requirement for equipment for communication and/or power mobility, RECES will liaise with others to facilitate an integrated approach to assessment and selection of systems as appropriate. However RECES is not provided with routine funding for Communication Aids or Power mobility control systems.