

Procedure that requires prior approval

Policy title	Cough assist device / Mechanical Insufflation-Exsufflation (MI-E) device v1.0
Policy position	Criteria Based Access
Date of Forum recommendation	June 2019

This policy applies to patients (adults and children) who have an ineffective/weak cough due to neuromuscular disease or cervical spinal cord injury. This includes patients with conditions such as muscular dystrophy, spinal muscular atrophy, motor neurone disease and spinal cord injury.

A mechanical insufflator-exsufflator (MI-E) device / Cough Assist assists the clearance of bronchopulmonary secretions in those patients with an ineffective cough by the use of both positive and negative pressure. The rapid shift in pressure produces a high expiratory flow, simulating a natural cough.

Funding for a MI-E device / Cough Assist will be considered for patients who meet all the following criteria and where the MDT involved in their care recommends the device will be of clinical benefit. A multidisciplinary team should assess, manage and review the patient's respiratory function, respiratory symptoms, non-invasive ventilation and cough effectiveness, including the person's response to treatment.

CRITERIA FOR CHILDREN

Cough Assist devices are funded for paediatric patients with neuromuscular conditions in the following circumstances:

- Children who are clinically very weak
- Children with loss of bulbar function
- Children who cannot co-operate with manual cough assist or air-stacking methods or these methods have not been effective

AND

- The patient suffers from recurrent respiratory tract infections, diagnosed and treated by a primary or secondary care doctor. Recurrent infection defined as three or more episodes over a single winter period or on-going infections greater than once every two months throughout the year.

CRITERIA FOR ADULTS

1. An established diagnosis as paralytic / restrictive disorder, including but not exclusively

- spinal cord injuries (SCI)

NOTE:

This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.

Clinical coding: Device code not available.

Key words: Mechanical Insufflation-Exsufflation, MI-E device, cough assist