

Policy:	Trophic Electrical Stimulation for Facial Palsy (TES)		GM Ref:	GM005	
First issue date:	May 2016	Current version:	2.0	Last reviewed:	May 2017

Policy exclusions

TES as part of an externally funded trial or a locally agreed pathway of care is excluded from this policy.

Policy inclusion criteria

Assessment referral

Requests for funding for an assessment of the potential outcome of a course of TES can be made provided the following criteria are met:

- Chronic idiopathic facial palsy (Bell's palsy) which has not responded to treatment in 6 months or for cases of recurrent idiopathic facial palsy (Bell's palsy)

OR

- Cases of nerve damage where the specialist managing the case has provided evidence in support of referral for trophic electrical stimulation

AND

- **in all cases** there are demonstrable functional problems associated with the palsy, including but not restricted to:
 - difficulty closing the eye
 - difficulty articulating speech
 - difficulty in eating and drinking
 - difficulty with facial expressions sufficient to interfere with non-verbal communication

Course of treatment

Following receipt of the assessment report from the provider (or if the initial application includes an assessment report) requests will be considered in line with the above mandatory criteria.

Extension of funding

Any requests for an extension of funding must be accompanied by a detailed progress report that includes the expected outcome for the extended treatment – the application for an extension should come from the provider of the service.

Funding mechanism: Individual prior approval provided the patient meets the above criteria. Requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request.

If the patient does not meet the criteria: an individual funding request can be made if there is a good case for clinical exceptionality. Requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request.