Electrolarynx, Voice Prosthesis and Laryngectomy Consumables Funding Criteria

This funding criteria has been developed in consultation with expert clinicians based on available evidence at the time of development. This document is designed to specify the criteria to access funding through EnableNSW for this group of assistive technology and provide a basis for consistent and transparent decision making.

VOICE PROSTHESIS, ELECTROLARYNX AND LARYNGECTOMY CONSUMABLES

Part A- Funding Criteria

This funding criteria refers to patients with a demonstrated need for long term (>12 months) voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy equipment. Prescribers are required to identify the most appropriate, cost-effective solution to meet a person's clinical and functional needs. This includes consideration of readily available and/or contract items through EnableNSW. Non-contract products are only provided when a contract product is not available or does not meet the person's clinical need.

The criteria do not replace the need for local clinical service guidelines or prescriber clinical reasoning and recognise that not all items or quantities that are clinically recommended will meet the criteria for funding through EnableNSW.

Eligible prescriber criteria:

- Speech pathologist or a clinician experienced in the management of laryngectomy/head and neck (H&N) patients, and the prescription of voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy equipment

OR

- Speech pathologist working with support from senior H&N speech pathologist or other clinician experienced in the management of laryngectomy/H&N patients

A prescriber cannot also be the equipment supplier for the same request. This may include but is not limited to a personal or professional relationship with or material interest in the supplier or manufacturer of the equipment listed on this request. Prescribers should contact EnableNSW to discuss any potential conflict of interest prior to making an application.

Included Equipment: Voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables

General criteria: Voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables may be funded when:

- A minimum two-week trial of the prescribed equipment has been completed **AND**
- The equipment/consumables are required for long term use (>12 months) **AND**
- The most clinically appropriate, cost-effective option has been considered **AND**
- The prescriber has provided the appropriate education to the patient regarding correct use, care and maintenance of equipment in order to prolong device life and to minimise product wastage **AND**
- The prescriber agrees to provide ongoing review and support or refer to an appropriate service for the same. The name of this clinical service and contact person is provided.

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1. Standard Equipment- Voice		
Included equipment	**Allocation**	**Funding Criteria**
Electrolarynx **OR** Indwelling Voice Prosthesis- Standard allocation **OR** Non-indwelling Voice Prosthesis **OR**	One item **OR** Up to 3 per year **OR** Up to 6 per year	**Electrolarynx**: The person requires an electrolarynx for primary communication and has successfully trialled the equipment **Voice prosthesis**: The trache-oesophageal fistula is stable post-surgery **AND** The voice prosthesis is required for long term use by the person for primary communication **AND** The prescriber has determined that the prescribed voice prosthesis product and size is stable and likely to be required long-term
Indwelling Voice Prosthesis- Higher allocation	4 per year	**Additional criteria for higher allocation (4 per year) of indwelling voice prosthesis:** The person consistently requires more frequent (>3 per year) replacement of voice prosthesis despite medical optimisation, due to: • Early VP failure **OR** • VP insufficiency (e.g. swallowing dysfunction) **OR** • Accidental dislodgement **OR** • VP needing to be removed e.g. presence of granulation tissue or surgery **OR** • Tracheoesophageal puncture dysfunction **AND** Prescriber must outline the reason/s for higher frequency replacement of VPs
2. Non-Standard Equipment- Voice		
Included equipment	**Allocation**	**Funding Criteria**
Tracheostoma/hands free speech valve starter kit	Once only	The person is motivated to use hands free speech due to self-care needs (please specify relevant self-care needs). **AND** The person has demonstrated compliant use of the prescribed HME equipment **AND** The person has the required dexterity and cognitive ability to manage a hands-free speech valve

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3. Heat Moisture Exchangers (HMEs), stoma covers and HME attachment devices/adhesive seals/baseplates		
HMEs and stoma covers		
Included equipment Standard HMEs **OR** Foam stoma covers/protectors- Adhesive type **OR** Foam stoma cover/protector - Reusable non-adhesive type (for humidification/ filtration)	**Allocation** Up to 730 per year **OR** Disposable 365 per year **OR** Reusable 120 per year	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.*
Adhesive seals/baseplates		
Included equipment Standard adhesive seals (base plates) **OR**	**Allocation** 365 per year	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.*
Non-standard adhesive seals (base plates)	365 per year	**Additional criteria for non-standard adhesive seals only:** The person has trialled a standard adhesive seal for at least 2 weeks and due to poor seal or dexterity is unable to safely use the standard adhesive seal **OR** The person uses a hands-free system **OR** The patient requires a non-standard adhesive seal for anatomical reasons (e.g. deep stoma or complex neck/stoma anatomy post surgery)

4. Laryngectomy Respiratory Consumables		
HME attachment devices & accessories		
Tracheostoma button **OR** Laryngectomy tubes (fenestrated or non-fenestrated)	2 per year **OR** 2 per year	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.*
Laryngectomy tubes/tracheostoma button securing device: Neck straps	52 per year	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.*

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Voice Prosthesis & Laryngectomy Accessories		
• Plug insert for voice prostheses • Dilator • Voice Prosthesis flushing device • Gel cap insertion system • Gel caps	One of each item (can be replaced on request from prescriber at end of the item's useable life)	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.* **Gel caps & gel cap insertion system:** The person is independently changing their voice prosthesis out of the clinical setting
• Voice prosthesis cleaning brush • Laryngectomy tube cleaning brush	One item per month	*Eligible if person meets the voice prosthesis, electrolarynx and other laryngectomy consumables general criteria on page 1.*

Excluded equipment
• Lubricant • Silicone adhesive • Adhesive barrier and remover products • Dressings • Cloth stoma covers (not for filtration/humidification, used for aesthetic reasons only) • Specialised valves (intended for extended device life) • Shower protectors • Batteries

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Part B- Additional Considerations and Requirements

Key information to consider or include in the Equipment Request Form (ERF)	
Factors	Consider • That for non-indwelling voice prosthesis the person can clean the prosthesis in situ and can change the prosthesis or has access to a clinical specialist for device change. • That for indwelling voice prosthesis the person can clean the prosthesis in situ and has access to a clinical specialist for device change. • Information from the clinical and functional assessment of relevant skills including ability to achieve functional voice, cognitive factors, dexterity, and vision. • Any relevant medical information that impacts on the person's current and ongoing ability to use the device such as deterioration or improvement in condition, physiological issues, medications, planned surgery.
Social/ Carer Factors	• Consider whether the carer is able to hear and/or understand the person's speech when the device is being used.
Environmental and Equipment Factors .	Consider • That a plan is in place for ongoing local clinical support. • That a plan for training has been made for the consumer, and if applicable the carer, regarding the use of the equipment, maintenance, cleaning and ongoing review. • That an emergency plan has been made for the consumer, in the event of equipment breakdown including early failure of the voice prosthesis. Please note that EnableNSW is not able to provide loan equipment or emergency orders in the event of unexpected equipment failure.
Trial considerations	• A trial of consumables and equipment is required before funding can be considered. A trial period of at least two weeks is required. • Equipment on loan or equipment previously used constitutes a trial. • Consider the person's functional use of the equipment such as: ability to operate the equipment, change or recharge batteries, clean device, and manage emergency situations. • If non-standard equipment is requested describe how the features/specifications of the recommended equipment will meet the consumer's needs in the most clinically appropriate and cost-effective way.
Split allocations and non-standard HMEs	• Prescribers can request provision of two or more items within the same category (e.g. two different types of HME to be used interchangeably), however the full allocation must be split between the different products so that the full allocation is not exceeded (e.g. 50:50, 25:75). • If non-standard HMEs are requested for specific non-occupational environmental reasons, funding may be provided on a discretionary basis and total allocation of HMEs will be adjusted accordingly.
Occupational requirements	• EnableNSW does not fund additional or non-standard equipment on the basis of occupational requirements. These requests will be reviewed at the discretion of EnableNSW.

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Intended use of equipment	• EnableNSW provides equipment and consumables for the individual patient's use in the community. Equipment supplied by EnableNSW is not to be used for other patients or to replenish clinical service stock.
Replacement of items with allocation of "one item"	• EnableNSW will replace items with allocation of "one item" on the prescriber's request at the end of the item's workable life or expiry date e.g. electrolarynx, dilator, VP handsfree kit. • EnableNSW may consider replacing an electrolarynx with a newer models before workable life- Justification based on functional/quality of life benefits superiority based on the features of newer model, demonstrated in a home trial.
Batch ordering	• Patients can order equipment/consumables in batches to last 3 (preferred) to a maximum of 6 months only