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**Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust**

**Specialist Equipment Services**

**Criteria for the Provision of Environmental Control Equipment August 2018**

**Outline of Criteria:**

This service provides Environmental Control (EC) equipment, on loan, to severely disabled people in East Sussex, Kent and South East London to enable them to live more independently in their homes.

Environmental control equipment can be provided for people who have a profound and potentially complex physical disability, such that they are unable to operate standard controls (e.g. television remote control, telephone) for functioning independently in the home. This will usually involve the person having very limited upper limb and hand function.

In addition, the person must be cognitively and physically able to operate environmental control equipment consistently, and demonstrate sustained motivation to use the environmental control equipment. If necessary, this can be determined following a trial period of using equipment.

Where individuals have a variable condition (e.g. 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.

For further information see the NHS England Service Specification for the provision of Environmental Control equipment: ‘Environmental Control Equipment for Patients with Complex Disability (All Ages)’; accessible at:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/environmental-control-equipment-for-patients-with-complex-disability-all-ages/>

**Additional Information:**

EC equipment enables individuals with significant physical disabilities, particularly of the upper limbs, to control functions or appliances primarily within the home/residential environment. The functions can include summoning help in an emergency or from a carer, making and receiving telephone calls, controlling visitor access to the home, operating electrical appliances and lighting and accessing computer technologies.

A key element of EC Systems is that they enable the user to control multiple functions through an input and interface that are tailored to their individual needs. The systems are prescribed and assembled to meet individual need and may include a custom manufactured or bespoke element.

Equipment is provided to people of any age that meet our criteria, but the degree of independence that is age appropriate will be considered

Referral to the Service must be made using the Service referral form, and by a clinician involved in the person’s care.

Environmental Control equipment will not be provided where simpler and cheaper non- customised solutions to the identified needs of the person are available and appropriate for the individual

Certain aspects of the potential provision are outside the funding remit of the specialist service and require referral for funding and provision by other agencies:

- Door openers, window openers, curtain openers

- Replacement door locking mechanisms, building adaptations, electrical, joinery, carpentry or other minor adaptations.

- Equipment for monitoring and health needs e.g. telecare equipment, tele-health equipment, tele-rehab equipment.

- Page turners

If access to a computer is required as part of the environmental control provision, the following criteria will apply. The person:

- is unable to access their computer through standard means (mouse, keyboard etc) but would expect to be able to use the equipment with the provision of suitable aids or adaptations

- demonstrates an intention to require access to IT to support independence and daily living

- has their own, or has access to, a personal computer/laptop

- does not have computer access difficulties solely related to sensory disabilities (i.e. visual or hearing impairment

- does not intend to use the computer primarily for use in educational or work situations or environments

- has a level of computer literacy adequate for the tasks they wish to be able to achieve, or on-going access to adequate training and support to achieve this.

For more information please see our website: [www.kmpt.nhs.uk/ecs](http://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/ecs)

Or contact us:

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