

Environmental Control Systems and Computer Access Funding Criteria

This Guideline has been developed in consultation with expert clinicians and is designed to specify the EnableNSW funding criteria for this group of assistive technology; items provided; eligible prescribers and provide a basis for consistent and transparent decision making

Environmental Control Systems and Computer Access

EnableNSW funds the following Environmental Control Systems and Computer access items. This list is not exhaustive and EnableNSW reserves the right to make the final decision regarding the provision of equipment that is not specifically included or excluded. Prescribers should check their eligibility to prescribe specific equipment in this category as identified in the table below.

Request Process

- A completed EnableNSW Application Form needs to be completed by the applicant or their representative. This may be completed online or by completing the PDF form. For more information: https://www.enable.health.nsw.gov.au/for_individuals/applying-to-EnableNSW
- EnableNSW provides the most cost-effective item to meet a person's clinical need
- Items in this category are available through the Aids and Equipment Program (AEP)
- Complete and submit an Environmental Control System Equipment Request Form (ERF) attaching an itemised quote for the requested item
- A prescriber cannot also be a supplier or affiliated with the supplier of the equipment 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 the request.
- Only equipment that complies with the relevant Australian or International Standards and/or has Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) registration (class 1 medical devices) is funded.

ALLOCATION:

- 1x Environmental Control System
- 1x Computer access system

INCLUDED EQUIPMENT	FUNDING CRITERIA	ELIGIBLE PRESCRIBERS
Group 2		
Disability specific Environmental Control Systems (ECS) such as: • environmental control units • accessories	Meets all the following: • Person requires the system to independently complete regularly occurring *core Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) • The system is the primary system used to complete the core ADLs, and a more basic alternative method is not suitable	• Speech pathologist with > 1 year experience and 3 previous prescriptions of this category of equipment.

• software • adaptations	• A plan for training and support is in place. *Core ADLs may include: ▪ Health/disability management: e.g., carer scheduling, managing appointments, communication with health agencies. ▪ Controlling the environment: e.g., temperature regulation, turning lights on and off, access to rooms, access to telephone. ▪ Personal organisation: e.g., accessing computer for banking and money management, essential shopping, personal correspondence.	• Registered Occupational Therapist with > 1 year experience and 3 previous prescriptions of this category of equipment. Previous prescriptions do not have to be for EnableNSW funding
Disability specific computer access such as: • switches • alternative keyboard • mouse • software	Meets criteria for <i>Disability Specific Environmental Control Systems</i> above	
Protective covers	Must meet at least one of the criteria below: • Person has poorly controlled secretions and requires protective covers for the device or components of the device • Device is mounted on a tray that is used concurrently for mealtime	

Group 3

Group 2 devices with complex mounting requirements.	Meets criteria for <i>Disability Specific Environmental Control Systems</i> above plus: • Person requires mounting to access the device or switch AND • The device is the primary system	• Registered occupational therapist with > 3 years' experience and 5 previous prescriptions within this equipment category; plus 1 or more members of multi-disciplinary team or prescribed in consultation with a specialised service.
Group 2 devices with complex access requirements including: • voice recognition • eye gaze • head control • head array	Meets criteria for <i>Disability Specific Environmental Control Systems</i> above plus ONE of the following: • There is no functional switch site • Person experiences severe fatigue when using switches • Person has very poor accuracy and/or slow speed when using switches. • A successful trial has taken place with demonstrated outcomes.	

• integration with power wheelchair controls • complex switch scanning	Note: For eye gaze access requests, at least two systems must be considered	Previous prescriptions do not have to be for EnableNSW funding
EXCLUSIONS	• Non disability specific systems including air conditioners, telephones, mobile phones, standard smoke alarms, home alarm systems, doorbells, door openers, CCTV monitoring devices, computer desks or mounts, regular batteries. • Non disability specific computers, personal digital assistants and portable touch screen equipment, computer upgrades and associated equipment such as printers, scanners, speakers, and cables. • Installation of systems including electrical or telephone outlets and electrical wiring. • Disability specific adaptations that involve permanent fixtures to the residence such as hard-wired receivers, door motors, lifts, wall mounts, etc. • Continence, movement monitoring/fall detection, seizure, and SIDS alarms. • Devices, features or programming costs solely for recreational or vocational use or for accessing the educational curriculum. • Features that are a recreational or vocational add-on to the primary purpose of the device. • Devices or software where the primary purpose is for treatment or therapy. • Devices or software under \$100.	