



COCHLEAR
IMPLANT PROGRAM
An RIDBC service

BCID Pilot Program - FAQs for Healthcare Professionals

Why is the public funding for BCID being managed through a pilot program?

NSW Health is conducting a pilot program to determine the need for funding BCID's. The pilot will assist them in identifying the potential cost benefits and outcomes that can be achieved with BCID which will influence future funding. At the conclusion of the pilot results will be reviewed and the case for extension of funding or recurrent funding will be determined.

Why should SCIC Cochlear Implant Program, an RIDBC service, be responsible for directing the public funding of BCID?

As a not for profit service, SCIC Cochlear Implant Program has been largely responsible for the management of public funding of implantable devices in NSW and ACT since 1986. We have a strong track record of allocating public funding and providing NSW Health with the ongoing data required for establishing the funding requirements. A large gap in service provision for clients eligible for BCID led to SCIC Cochlear Implant Program presenting a proposal to NSW Health that would address this gap, and not just for our own clients. Following this approach and ensuing discussions, the funding was allocated by the Hon Jillian Skinner in June 2016.

How can I ensure that I maintain the relationship with my clients if I refer them for public funding?

The funding will ensure you can continue clinical and audiological management of your client. It does not require you to refer them to an SCIC Cochlear Implant Program audiologist. You know your clients and their needs best. Referral to the BCID pilot requires a data set of your clients' results that is de-identified and collated with the larger data set that will be reviewed by NSW Health to determine ongoing funding needs.

If you require training in management of BCID, the manufacturers will be able to provide the support required.

Why do we have to use a protocol for assessment?

The protocol for suitability and ongoing monitoring of outcomes has been reviewed by NSW Health and the NSW Health ethics committee. This protocol has been designed to provide the relevant information for ensuring client expectations and optimal outcomes have been achieved. Consistency in the procedures used will provide a strong data set for reporting of outcomes. Device choice is at the discretion of the audiologist, surgeon and client with a range of devices being covered by NSW Health funding.

What happens if I do not have access to an ENT surgeon that does BCID surgeries or has access to the public health system?

There are a number of surgeons who perform BCID and have access to the public health system in NSW. If you contact SCIC Cochlear Implant Program we can ensure that you are connected to a surgeon who will be able to support you.

Who can I discuss potential cases for referral with?

Confidential discussion on appropriateness of cases or any other aspects relating to the BCID program can be directed to:

Colleen Psarros
Clinical Practice Manager, SCIC Cochlear Implant Program
Email: colleen.psarros@scic.org.au Phone: 0477 711 522

Alternatively if you have questions specific to devices these should be directed to the device manufacturers.