

# Prostheses List Panel of Clinical Experts (Panel)

## Terms of Reference

### **Purpose:**

Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC) advises the Minister on the suitability to list on the Prostheses List under the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007*.

The Prostheses List Panel of Clinical Experts (Panel) is an expert sub-committee of the Prostheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC). The Panel is composed of clinicians with contemporary subject matter expertise, and additional skills where identified by the PLAC.

### **Roles and function:**

The primary role of the Panel is to assess applications to list medical devices, or amend an existing listing, on the Prostheses List and advise on:

- whether the medical device satisfies the criteria for listing on the Prostheses List; and
- the clinical and health outcomes of the medical device compared with other medical devices on the Prostheses List, to inform:
  - listing in the appropriate grouping on the Prostheses List; and/or
  - allocation of a new grouping on the Prostheses List and setting of an appropriate group benefit.

The Panel will refer applications to the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) where the:

- new medical device employs a medical service that is not currently covered in the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS), or
- new medical device might be used in a medical service that is currently described in the MBS, but potentially extends the range of indications/patients beyond the original intent of the MBS item/s.

The Panel also advises the PLAC on:

- the evidence and information they require to assess applications to list medical devices on the Prostheses List.
- any concerns in relation to safety and/or performance of medical devices, for reference to the Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- reviewing the listing of medical devices in view of issues relating to safety, performance and/or comparative health outcomes.
- on any other matter, as required.

In assessing applications and providing advice on medical devices, the Panel will ensure that their approaches are:

- consistent
- transparent, accountable and independent;
- consultative and reflective of Australian community values; and
- informed by robust and relevant evidence.

**Membership and composition:**

A Panel will be established by the Protheses List Advisory Committee (PLAC) to provide advice to the PLAC, on an 'as required' basis to address the types of applications presented for consideration and recommendation.

The Panel is composed of a wide variety of clinicians, each with clinical expertise in relation to one or more of the following sub-specialities covered by the Panel.

- Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)
- Neurosurgical;
- General Miscellaneous; and
- Plastic Reconstructive.

The clinical expertise represented on the Panel will be determined by PLAC in consultation with the Department of Health.

The size and composition of a Panel will consist of a minimum of two clinical experts from each clinical sub-speciality from which prostheses are listed.

Membership on the Panel is reflective of a broad cross-section of contemporary clinical practice in Australia.

Nomination and appointment protocols are detailed in the *Panel Operational Guidelines*.