

Eligibility criteria for sacral nerve stimulation (SNS)

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) under a member's policy to treat faecal incontinence and only when criteria **1, 2, 3, 4 and 5** below are met for that member.

1. Conservative medical treatment has failed, is contraindicated, or is not tolerated.
2. Sphincter surgery is contraindicated or not indicated.
3. There is no evidence of **any** of the following:
 - a significant anorectal malformation (eg a major sphincter defect of over 50%)
 - rectal prolapse
 - fistula
 - perineal deformity.
4. There is no active bowel disease causing faecal incontinence.
5. There is at least a 50% improvement in reported symptoms following placement of neurostimulator electrodes and temporary implantable device for test stimulation.

The cost of the sacral nerve stimulation to treat faecal incontinence will **not** be reimbursed in the following circumstance:

- when faecal incontinence is secondary to a neurological condition such as peripheral neuropathy or complete spinal cord injury.

Note: The cost of the battery-driven implantable device is not covered, in line with the standard Southern Cross policy exclusions.