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Prescribed List Compliance and Assurance Section  
Technology Assessment & Access Division | Health Resourcing Group  
Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

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## Spinal Cord Stimulators (SCS) – Impact Assessment

On behalf of the Board of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (faculty) of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, thank you for the invitation to comment on the proposed changes to the rebates paid for spinal cord stimulation devices.

Spinal cord stimulation continues to be a clinically useful modality to treat a small group of the most complex and disabled pain patients, and if implanted by appropriately trained operators according to best-practice principles of sociopsychobiomedical care, they can be critically helpful to individuals. They do represent, however, some challenges because of their risk, expense and uncertain long-term efficacy. The faculty would be concerned if any proposed regulatory changes were to have an impact on the equitable access to best-practice care, but we do not see this as likely in the current proposals.

As the terms of reference for the review do not touch upon matters of training and assessment, or professional conduct by fellows of the faculty, we do not have a particular comment to make regarding the proposed changes, which represent a commercial interaction between product sponsors and the regulator.

Yours sincerely,



A/Prof Michael Vagg

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