

Australasian Sleep Association

ENDORSEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR EXPERT OPINION POLICY

Approved by the ASA Board on 10 July 2023

POLICY

The Australasian Sleep Association (ASA) does not endorse clinical products such as diagnostic devices, pharmaceutical medications or clinical sleep services.

From time to time, the ASA is asked to provide an expert opinion on products or clinical services. The ASA will provide expert opinions as part of evidence-based regulatory processes such as product registration with the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or applications for Medicare funding under the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) or the Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule. In these circumstances, all expert opinion will be based on scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed journals and clinical consensus views of ASA committees and working groups with relevant expertise.

The ASA will not and does not provide expert opinions for the purpose of marketing products and services. The ASA does not see its role as being a technical assessor of new technologies or medications, nor does it have the resources to perform this function. Providers of new technologies or medications should commission independent scientific research to provide evidence that supports clinical claims about new products and services, and this research should be published in peer-reviewed journals.

The ASA will not provide opinions about whether particular devices or procedures meet Medicare item number criteria unless requested as part of an Australian government regulatory process. Medicare's interpretation of the requirements to fulfil item number criteria are independent of the ASA. The responsibility for ensuring that a diagnostic test or service meets the MBS criteria lies with the individual sleep physician billing the test as any compliance or audit activity by Medicare will be directed at that sleep physician.

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING EXPERT OPINION REQUESTS

All requests should be directed to the ASA's CEO, who will consult with the Clinical Committee and ASA leadership about whether it is appropriate to provide a response, and the form the response should take.

If a formal written response is to be prepared, the Clinical Committee will appoint a small working group to draft a response, which must be approved by both the Clinical Committee and the ASA Board before being provided.

CONTACTS

Requests for expert opinion should be sent to the CEO, Marcia Balzer, email: ceo@sleep.org.au phone: 0430 175 310, 02 9920 1968