



AIRWAY CLEARANCE SYSTEM

## Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

# High Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation (HFCWO) — A Proven Therapy for Reducing the Risk of Lung Infections Associated with ALS

Caregivers to people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, know that this progressive neurodegenerative disease affects nerve cells in the brain, brain stem and spinal cord. As motor neurons degenerate, so does muscle control and even lung function. Decreased ability to move air in and out of the lungs heightens the risk of lung infection.

People with ALS need regular airway clearance therapy to loosen and remove retained secretions — which allow bacteria to accumulate and thrive — in order to reduce the risk of lung infections. In some cases, airway clearance therapy includes suction or Cough Assist techniques. Because of the rapid progression of the disease, oral airway clearance techniques such as handheld oscillating PEP devices can be ineffective, since patients don't have the expiratory force needed to complete the exercise.

*When prescribed treatments for improving airway clearance associated with ALS don't provide effective relief, there's another option: SmartVest® Airway Clearance System.*

### About the SmartVest Airway Clearance System

The SmartVest Airway Clearance System uses high frequency chest wall oscillation (HFCWO), a proven clinical therapy that helps to clear the lungs of excess mucus, reducing the risk of respiratory infections and hospitalizations. When patients with ALS use the simple, comfortable SmartVest System as intended, the changes can be life-transforming.

The SmartVest System consists of an inflatable garment connected to a programmable air pulse generator. During therapy, the SmartVest garment delivers a rapidly repeating pulse of air, alternately squeezing and releasing the upper body. Each squeeze simulates a "mini cough," which acts to loosen, thin and propel mucus toward major airways, where it can be more readily coughed up or suctioned away.

### Is the SmartVest Airway Clearance System Right for You? Talk to Your Doctor about the Benefits HFCWO Therapy Offers

Health care coverage for HFCWO therapy varies. Your health plan might specify certain clinical conditions for the use of HFCWO, which can include a requirement that other therapies be tried first. Talk to your doctor about if and when the SmartVest System might be medically appropriate for you or your loved one. Take the SmartVest prescription and certificate of medical necessity form with you to your doctor to have a discussion about the benefits HFCWO therapy offers.

### Reimbursement Assistance

At Electromed we understand that health care can be costly, and many of our patients have mounting medical bills. It is our goal to take the stress off of you and work with your insurance provider on your behalf. Our reimbursement team acts as an advocate to gain reimbursement from your insurance provider and works diligently with your doctor to complete all necessary forms.

Discover all the unique benefits of the SmartVest Airway Clearance System by Electromed here.

References:  
ALS Association

## **ELECTROMED, INC.**

Making life's important moments possible — one breath at a time.®

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