



AIRWAY CLEARANCE SYSTEM

## Cerebral Palsy

# High Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation (HFCWO) — A Proven Therapy for Reducing the Risk of Respiratory Complications Associated with Cerebral Palsy

If you're the parent or caregiver of a child with cerebral palsy, you know the symptoms of the disorder range from mild to severe and vary from person to person. Cerebral palsy is a blanket term referring to a group of disorders that involve brain and nervous system functions that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture.

With cerebral palsy, there are numerous areas of overall health that need to be monitored, but one of the most important is respiratory health. Because of muscle weakness, people with cerebral palsy may have swallowing difficulties, a weak cough and seizures, which can impair their ability to effectively cough up mucus. When this occurs, more serious respiratory complications can result.

To help clear mucus from the airways, a doctor may prescribe several airway clearance techniques, including manual chest physiotherapy (CPT) with postural drainage and use of breathing devices that vibrate the airways. However, these airway clearance techniques may not be tolerated by all people with cerebral palsy.

*When prescribed treatments for improving airway clearance associated with cerebral palsy 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 cerebral palsy 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:

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
<http://cerebralpalsy.org/information/respiratory-health/>

## **ELECTROMED, INC.**

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

### Corporate Headquarters

500 Sixth Avenue NW  
New Prague, MN 56071  
Phone: 800-462-1045 or 952-758-9299  
Fax: 952-223-6253

[www.smartvest.com](http://www.smartvest.com)