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| Intervention   | **051. Sacral Nerve Stimulation (SNS) – Faecal Retention**  |
| For the treatment of   | Chronic constipation  |
| Commissioning Position   | This intervention is not commissioned and therefore should not be routinely offered to patients. Application for funding approval can be made, using the IFR process, by the clinician recommending the intervention, if their assessment is that there are exceptional reasons why their patient could benefit from it.  |
| Summary of Rationale   | Sacral nerve stimulation (SNS) is well established for pelvic urinary indications and for the treatment of faecal incontinence when conservative measures have failed. Its role in the management of chronic constipation (CC) has been studied since 2001. Evidence supporting sacral nerve stimulation for constipation is either derived from poor quality studies or when methodologically robust trials have reported they have all urged caution about its use.  |
| References   | [Sacral nerve stimulation for treating faecal incontinence and constipation in adults | Cochrane](https://www.cochrane.org/CD004464/INCONT_sacral-nerve-stimulation-treating-faecal-incontinence-and-constipation-adults) [AGEB - AGEB Article](https://www.ageb.be/ageb-journal/ageb-volume/ageb-article/1935/) [Surgery for constipation: systematic review and practice recommendations](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/codi.13780)  |
| Effective from  | October 2024  |
| Policy Review Date   | October 2027  |