

Clinical Guidelines for the Provision of Wigs

Assessor / Prescriber	Prescriber Level	Delegate Approval Required
General Practitioner Specialist	N/A	N

Wig Definition:

A false covering of the head made from real or synthetic hair.

Provided (as clinically required):	Not Provided
a real or synthetic wig	The issue of the initial wig following the treatment of an illness. This will be supplied by the hospital or acute service provider

Clinical indicators for provision of wigs:

Wigs will be provided in the following circumstances:

- The client has a permanent loss of hair as a result of treatment for a major illness (e.g. alopecia or oncology)
- It is at least 12 months since the initial issue of the wig from the acute care service provider (e.g. hospital).
- It is at least 12 months since provision of the last synthetic wig or at least five years since the provision of the last real hair wig. (the key approval criteria for equipment do not apply to wigs)

Notes:

Real hair wigs are much more expensive than synthetic hair wigs but have a much longer lifespan. As such, the client should be advised that if they chose to have a real hair wig provided, it will not be replaced by DCSI within 5 years. A synthetic wig may be replaced no more than annually.