



## Medical Equipment Assistance Program

### Information for Applicants

HoH exists for the benefit of members of the public who suffer from Complex Congenital Heart Diseases. One of our primary aims is to relieve suffering and distress of members of the community that are affected by these conditions. The provision of medical equipment to manage congenital heart diseases and improve the quality of life of sufferers of conditions such as Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome is one of the programmes we have in place to help us achieve our goals.

While the provision of equipment is subject to the availability of funds, Hearts of Hope Australia will consider all applications that meet the criteria set out in this document and the attached application form. In assessing applications, the Executive Committee will give priority to applicants that are assessed to have the greatest need and would benefit most from this programme. For example, children in regional areas that need to travel for INR testing or those that have unstable INR levels would benefit more from having CoaguChek instruments available either at home or at their local doctor or hospital, and the Executive Committee would allocate equipment to these children first.

It is important that applicants provide as much information as possible to help the Executive Committee arrive at a fair decision on the allocation of funds to purchase equipment. We would encourage everyone who may need assistance through this programme to apply as soon as they have an approximate date for when the equipment will be needed even if it is up to 12 months in the future. Doing so, will allow us to budget for and plan fundraising activities more effectively and allow HoH to assist as needed.

To apply for assistance under this programme the attached application form must be submitted to the Executive Committee. Please note the following points when completing the application form:

- HoH can only provide equipment on the basis that the application is supported by the medical professionals responsible for care of the child. This support may be in the form of the endorsement of the medical practitioner at item 8 of the application or other documentary evidence such as a letter from the treating doctor. It is recommended that provision of the equipment is discussed with the child's medical carers well before the equipment is needed.
- If training in the use of equipment is required, applicants must agree to attend courses in order for the application to be considered. HoH may be able to provide advice on what training is required however it is the applicants' responsibility to make training arrangements prior to the equipment being provided.
- Ownership of the equipment purchased by HoH is transferred to applicants who must agree to accept responsibility for the servicing, maintenance and provision of consumables for the equipment.
- HoH may ask applicants to make a contribution towards the purchase of equipment to help to help cover postage, insurance and other costs. Any 'profits' from these contributions are directed back into the Medical Equipment Assistance Programme.

All applications received will be considered by the Executive Committee at each meeting and if approved they will be added to the 'waiting list'. Applicants will be advised of when and under what conditions, if any, the equipment will be provided. If further information regarding the application is needed, a Committee member will contact applicants.

It should be noted, that due to funding issues and the aim to give priority to those children in most need, there may be circumstances where successful applicants' position on the waiting list may change. While every effort will be made to limit this from occurring, the Executive Committee will notify those on the 'waiting list' of the result of any such re-prioritising and the reasons for its decisions.

Another option applicants could consider is to engage in a specific fundraising campaign to help with the purchase of the requested equipment. Subject to the approval of the HoH Executive Committee, all members of HoH may undertake such activities under the banner of Hearts of Hope Australia. More information about fundraising for HoH, including the 'Fundraisers Information Pack' can be obtained by contacting [csaba.ovari@hearts-of-hope.org](mailto:csaba.ovari@hearts-of-hope.org).

### Additional Information for MEAP (CoaguChek) Applicants

HoH will provide a CoaguChek INR device, 24 testing strips and a Sofclix lancet (or similar) to successful applicants under the following conditions:

- The MEAP application must include the contact details for the healthcare professional that is supporting your application as HoH may need to confirm details provided. Please inform the endorsing person that a HoH representative may contact him/her and you authorise the named HoH representative to discuss your application. It is advisable to leave a copy of the completed application with the endorsing person. It is crucial that the healthcare professionals currently managing your child's Warfarin therapy are aware of, and fully support, your intention to use this equipment.
  - HoH recommends that at least one in every three tests be carried out using the method 'traditionally' used for monitoring the INR of your child. This is to help ensure that the home monitoring results are consistent and accurate. This matter must be discussed with the person responsible for managing your child's Warfarin dosage as he/she may be able to suggest more appropriate ways for you to make use of CoaguChek XS at home. The monitoring regime decided on must be described in section 3 of the MEAP application.
  - It is important that you are familiar with the CoaguChek XS before you begin to use it. Again, please talk to the medical professional supporting your application about getting appropriate training in the use of CoaguChek XS. Many healthcare providers use these devices to check INR so you should be able to access a hands-on demonstration or training locally. Please include the training arrangements you have made in section 6 of the MEAP application as CoaguChek XS cannot be provided by HoH without this information.
  - HoH requires a contribution of \$100.00 from applicants for the provision of CoaguChek. A cheque / money order made payable to Hearts of Hope Australia should be forwarded to HoH with the completed application form. In the unlikely event that HoH cannot provide the equipment, this contribution will be refunded in full.
  - Once you receive the equipment, you own it. As such you become responsible for insurance, maintenance and the purchase of consumables such as batteries, lancets and test strips for the device. Current prices for test strip range from \$140-160 per box of 24 and lancet devices cost approximately \$10.
  - Should you no longer require the CoaguChek device, it would be appreciated if you could return it to HoH (with the original packaging and instructions) so that it can be passed on to other children in need. Postage and insurance costs will be paid for by HoH. This is not a condition of HoH providing the device... just a suggestion.
-