



SomnoMed to benefit from US Medicare decision

MAS the best alternative to CPAP

17 March 2008, Sydney: SomnoMed Limited (ASX: SOM), maker of sleep apnoea devices worldwide, could benefit tremendously from a recent decision by the US-based Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to subsidise medical devices following a positive at-home sleep test. This means that a patient with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) can be prescribed with a treatment device based on data collected from home testing kits.

SomnoMed's MAS (mandibular advancement splint) is the market's leading alternative to the often-cumbersome CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) therapy. The decision to accept home testing will create a dramatic increase in the number of sleep disorder studies, allowing for a cheaper and convenient method of assessing the patient.

Ralf Barschow, chief executive of SomnoMed, said "This decision by Medicare in the US will have a huge impact on the sleep apnoea market. Now, patients do not need to wait months to get an appointment at a sleep centre, and pay the hefty fees associated with the diagnosis. As a result, the number of patients who can be quickly and effectively diagnosed will rise dramatically. This will lead to a general increase in the demand for treatment of OSA. The SomnoMed MAS is the best alternative treatment to CPAP, which many patients simply cannot tolerate. We, therefore, welcome the acceptance of home sleep tests by the US Medicare very much and expect that it will accelerate the demand for the SomnoMed dental sleep apnea device in the US."

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How the SomnoMed MAS™ works

The medical term for your lower jaw is 'mandible' and an oral appliance worn over the teeth is a 'splint', hence the name SomnoMed Mandibular Advancement Splint, or SomnoMed MAS™.

The SomnoMed MAS™ consists of two acrylic plates fitted over the upper and lower teeth. A patented fin coupling mechanism on the lower arch accurately positions the lower jaw (mandible) a little forward of its natural position.

This positioning tightens the soft tissue at the back of the throat to stop it from collapsing – the cause of snoring (partial collapse) and sleep apnoea (full collapse). SomnoMed MAS™ allows the normal opening and closing of the mouth, allowing the user to yawn, speak and drink. The device will last 5 years and comes with a warranty.

The SomnoMed MAS™ is provided to patients through an integrated clinical protocol, involving dentists, primary care practitioners and sleep physicians. This pathway ensures that all patients are appropriately diagnosed and that only suitable patients are fitted with the device.

