



Guideline for the Provision of Absorbent Incontinence Management Products: Adults

Continence Promotion

- Prescribing of absorbent incontinence management products should only be carried out after all other options have been tried. Our aim is to promote continence rather than manage incontinence.
- Containment products should not be automatically supplied for treatable medical conditions or for patients with acknowledged disability this is not appropriate and could be considered discriminatory. All individuals must have the opportunity for treatment before containment is considered.
- If an individual has capacity and declines treatment, provision of products will not be offered as an alternative.

Documentation

- A full continence assessment including a seven day fluid balance and bowel chart must be completed.
- Adults should be reviewed every 6 months or earlier if clinically indicated.
- Should individuals choose not to make themselves available for or decline assessment then product provision will not be considered.
- Should individuals choose not to make themselves available for or decline reassessment then product provision via the NHS will be suspended or cease.
- Ensure documentation complies with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Guidelines for record keeping.

Change of circumstances

- If a patient's continence status changes and products are no longer suitable a full reassessment including a seven day fluid balance and bowel chart must be completed.
- If a patient is transferred to another area within NHS Western Isles or to another Health Board, all relevant information regarding the continence assessment and supplies should be provided to the appropriate staff.
- All patients moving into the area will be required to undergo a new continence assessment for local provision.

Product provision

- Products will only be issued following completion of a full assessment.
- Individuals must self-source absorbent products until such time as a clinical assessment has taken place and the ordering process is completed which can be as long as 8 – 12 weeks.
- Product prescriptions are issued 12 weekly for patients at home and are delivered by courier. Storage of products is the responsibility of the recipient.
- Information on the correct fitting and storage of products will be provided.
- Absorbent containment products are prescription items individual to the patient and as such must be returned if no longer required for any reason. Please contact the community nursing team to arrange uplift of these items.
- Absorbent continence containment products are not gender specific and are suitable for all.

Disposable continence products / shaped pads / ID Expert Form / 2-piece system

- From the current stock of approved products a maximum provision of absorbent continence products is 4 per 24 hours or a maximum pad absorbency level of 3000mls per 24 hours.
- The lowest absorbency (disposable) product provided by the NHS is no lower than 400ml.
- Where a patient presents with faecal loss only, an anatomical product is supplied.
- All patients are supplied with fixation pants which are part of the two-piece system. Patients should wear these fixation pants or similar tight-fitting underwear to support the pad and ensure its effectiveness.
- Products have anti-leak barriers, a dry fast core for faster absorption, wetness indicator and odour control.

Acute Hospital In-patient Care

Elective and unplanned admissions

- Pre-existing incontinence – Supply of products to be brought in from home. Ward stock not to be used. Reassessment of continence, bladder and bowel should be undertaken while opportunity exists as inpatient.
- New onset incontinence – Comprehensive bladder and bowel assessment to be undertaken and instigation of first line treatments. Liase with community nursing team prior to discharge to complete assessment and arrange supply in the community. Ward stock can be used if required. Seven days supply of lowest absorbency product on discharge.

Exeptions

- Products will not be supplied before the individual has undergone a comprehensive clinical assessment. The exception to this is individuals at end of life where assessment is not possible. In this situation the continence adviser should be contacted.
- Visitors (e.g. on holiday) to a locality will be required to purchase their own products until they return home.

Disposal of products

- **Community:** double-wrap products in newspapers/plastic bags and place in household waste.
- **Hospital/Clinics:** dispose of products as per clinical waste guidelines.

Absorbent incontinence management products will not be issued to patients who wear their own products for reassurance and are not incontinent.

We are listening - how did we do?

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- speak to a member of staff
- visit our website: www.wihb.scot.nhs.uk/feedback or share your story at: www.careopinion.org.uk or tel. 0800 122 31 35
- tel. 01851 704704 ext. 2236 Monday-Friday between 10am - 4pm (answerphone available).

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