



## CONTINENCE ADVISORY SERVICE CRITERIA FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CONTINENCE PRODUCTS

Pad products for containment of incontinence are only supplied following a comprehensive assessment by a member of the continence Service or an appropriate Health care professional. For adults the assessment tool of choice is the All Wales Bladder / Bowel care pathway (2006) Community and All Wales Continence Bundle (2013) Acute, The service follows the National and Nice guidelines for assessment and Welsh Government / All Wales continence Forum consensus document for issuance of pad products 2018. For children see individual HB assessment documentation and Welsh Government Guidance, RCN and Guidance for the provision of continence containment products to children and young people A consensus document 2019.

**All assessments/reassessments will be undertaken by the continence service in the community with the exception of terminal / palliative patients and children. All orders will be submitted to the service electronically and be scrutinised and authorised by the Continence Service PRIOR to going to Stores. ALL individual exceptions to the criteria MUST be agreed by the Continence Service.**

1. All adults in C&V UHB, including those in residential care homes, should be treated equally in relation to absorbencies and product choice.
2. All adults may need to purchase products until assessment has taken place.
3. The number of products issued should not normally need to exceed 4 in 24 hours (but may vary according to number of products per packet). However the comprehensive, individualised assessment may require the UHB to provide outside of this guidance in exceptional clinical circumstances. If there are no exceptional clinical circumstances then individuals will be informed of the need to self-purchase
4. Shaped pads must be recommended as first line option as they are indicated in most cases of pad management. Having to wear an all in one nappy type pad is undignified for both children and adults therefore they are **not recommended for first line choice and should not be issued to mobile patient's**.
5. The maximum number of fixation pants to be issued is 2 pairs per month to clients already receiving them. No new clients will be issued with fixation pants, or existing patients who have not received them previously. These clients will be advised to purchase close fitting pants to secure pads or if net pants preferred advised to self purchase and where from.

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6. Products are only issued to newly assessed children from the age of four who have a mental or physical disability and who, on assessment, are deemed to have insufficient bladder/bowel control to begin toilet training. Those children already receiving products will remain unchanged. Products WILL NOT be issued to children who have Enuresis or Encopresis.
7. Pull up pants for new adult patients / or existing patients who are not already receiving these products are no longer routinely available via the UHB contract but will be reviewed by the continence service on an individual basis.
8. Reusable bed protection is not issued to clients receiving body worn products. Where bed protection is necessary, reusables should replace disposables wherever possible. A maximum of 3 per year will be issued to clients. These products are not suitable for faecal incontinence.
9. Where reusable/washable pants are used as an alternative to disposable pads, 6 pairs can be supplied annually, along with information enabling the client to self purchase extra pairs. These products are not suitable for faecal incontinence.
10. Bed protection 40x60 disposable sheets - 1 in 24hrs - will be issued to clients that need special procedures, i.e. bowel prep (enemas, suppositories etc).
11. Bed protection 60x60 disposable sheets should only be used for terminally ill clients or at the discretion of the Continence Service or is classed as one of the supplied products.
12. Containment products are used to support toileting regimes and individuals should not be told to urinate or defecate in a pad unless patient safety is compromised.
13. Containment products should not be supplied for treatable bladder or bowel dysfunction or where alternative methods of management can be implemented e.g. urinals, urinary sheath, adapted underwear, and bowel management devices
14. Products will not be issued for female hygiene purposes/menstruation.
15. The UHB will not supply for light incontinence (less than 280mls) or less than 2 small absorbency products in 24 hours. It is recommended that these patients be referred to the continence service for assessment and treatment or advised to self - purchase.
16. Visitors (e.g. on holiday) to a locality will not have products provided for them.
17. Containment products MUST only be used by the individual for whom they have been assessed
18. All product orders have to be submitted electronically on a product order form with the relevant accompanying documentation. Orders not on the correct product order form will be returned to the relevant professional and may cause delay in patients receiving their products.
19. Products will normally be delivered to patients homes by a delivery service at regular Intervals. Normally within 5 working days for new clients of stores receiving order form, terminally ill or discharge from hospital will take priority being delivered within 24-48 hours of stores receiving forms.

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20. Reassessments will have their order changed from the next delivery date.
21. Reassessment of patient's needs should will be undertaken at least annually or when they has been a change in clinical presentation.
22. Nursing home patients are not currently supplied by the Continence services in Wales but access to education and advice is available.
23. Inpatient services should adhere to a standard Health Board product formulary which aligns with community services. If clinical assessment identifies a need outside the formulary, advice must be sought from the continence service

This criteria is produced in line with the Welsh Governments / All Wales Continence Forums Pad Guidance for the provision of continence containment products for adults in Wales (2018).