

## Continence Products & Quantities

### Summary

Guidance on appropriate ordering quantities for catheters and continence products supplied on FP10 prescriptions.

### Aim/Purpose/Background

This is a cost and quality intervention;

- Identify patients prescribed continence products and accessories.
- Review patients repeat medication to ensure appropriate prescribing quantities of continence products and accessories are prescribed.
- Ensure that patients obtain repeat supplies of clinically necessary incontinence products in a timely manner.

### Initial and ongoing supplies of continence products:

- Initiation is usually by a Continence Nurse Specialist or district nurse.
- Requests for prescriptions should only be accepted from continence specialist Nurses, District Nurses, patients, patients carers or relatives.
- Requests for prescriptions must not be accepted directly from the DAC, as per CCG Guidance; [http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/Libraries/Continence\\_Formulary/Issuing\\_Prescriptions\\_for\\_Incontinence\\_and\\_Stoma\\_Appliances\\_-\\_Summary.sflb.ashx](http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/Libraries/Continence_Formulary/Issuing_Prescriptions_for_Incontinence_and_Stoma_Appliances_-_Summary.sflb.ashx).
- A prescription must be authorised by the prescriber prior to any ordering /delivery of catheters, this will prevent excessive ordering, both in quantity and frequency.
- Patients requiring incontinence products can have these dispensed either by a dispensing appliance contractor (DAC), a pharmacy contractor or a dispensing doctor.
- Prescribe two urinary catheters initially and then one at a time.
- All recommended catheters listed in the continence formulary have universal fittings for any make of leg or night bags.
- The continence formulary and Guidance can be accessed here; [http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/Libraries/Continence\\_Formulary/Continence\\_formulary\\_December\\_2013.sflb.ashx](http://www.cambsphn.nhs.uk/Libraries/Continence_Formulary/Continence_formulary_December_2013.sflb.ashx).

### Guidance for Action

- Run a report on patients currently prescribed continence products.
- List patients who are in a NURSING or RESIDENTIAL HOME.
- List patients who are in their OWN HOME.
- Review quantities prescribed against the formulary recommendations. This gives suggested prescribing quantities. (Note: There is different guidance for patients who are in residential or nursing care and patients in their own home).
- Review frequency of use of specific catheters against the specific category of patients as listed in the continence formulary.
- Practices should ensure that they are aware of the normal usage rate by the patient and that any irregularities are flagged to the GP and reviewed with the patient/carer.



- Ensure the quantity is prescribed rather than an original pack (op). OP may be interpreted as a single item or piece. Community pharmacists will be able to give advice on the correct pack size.
- If possible the catalogue number of the required item (if known) can be quoted on the prescription.
- Review NELATON Catheters for Intermittent Self Catheterisation against the continence formulary and ensure that all patients are being managed by the specialist continence team.
  - Review use of leg bags against the continence formulary.
  - Review use of Night drainage bags against the continence formulary.
  - Review use of CATHETER MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS in line with continence formulary. This should only be used as part of a treatment programme.
  - Review use of CATHETER VALVES these are for use with indwelling catheters only. Ensure that quantities are in line with the continence formulary. No more than one packet (5) should be prescribed every month.
  - Review TUBING AND ACCESSORIES and ensure quantities are in line with the continence formulary. Pack of 5 G straps should last four to six months Pack of 4 Urisleaves should last for six months.
  - Review INCONTINENCE SHEATHS in line with formulary, one box of thirty should be sufficient per month.

