

Continence promotion for children and young people with complex and/or additional needs

Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Care Services

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

The team

The Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Care Team comprises of a small team of nurses who provide a service across Devon, but are centrally based in Exeter.

The team is skilled in the assessment and management of children and young people with complex bladder and bowel care issues. We believe that:

- every child should have the opportunity to achieve continence, and
- it should not be assumed they do not have the ability to learn to toilet train because they have complex or additional needs.

Following a referral into the service, your child will be offered:

- An appointment with one of the paediatric bladder and bowel care nurse specialists.
- A detailed assessment of your child's bladder and bowel care needs. This may include an assessment of eligibility for continence products on prescription.
- Individualised advice and a programme to suit the specific needs of your child to help them achieve continence or develop a healthy bladder and bowel.
- Follow-up includes continual assessment of your child's needs, to ensure the programme is consistent and remains appropriate to the needs of your child and the prescribed continence products are fitting correctly.

What we expect from you

- For you to keep us updated between appointments if there are any changes to your child or young person's health that may affect their bladder and bowel care.

- For bladder and bowel diaries to be completed when requested prior to appointments. This information will aid the specialist nurse in the assessment of your child.
- For appointments to be attended on time. Clinic non-attendance will result in product delivery being suspended pending a review.
- For you to keep us updated of any changes to your contact details. For example, change of address, telephone number or change of GP.
- We ask that you treat our staff with respect, not be verbally or physically aggressive towards them.

Paediatric policy on continence product provision

In line with most other NHS health providers, we will provide continence products on prescription for children from the age of 5 years old, who have a physical or learning disability that impacts directly on their ability to achieve continence over a 24-hour period.

The Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Care Service follows the 'Guidance for the provision of continence containment products to children and young people' (2021).

- All children will have a documented assessment and a trial of toilet training undertaken, if appropriate, prior to the issue of any product.
- Continence products will be prescribed by the assessing nurse in line with our continence products formulary, based on the clinical needs of the child or young person.
- If full continence is not achievable, then healthy bladders and bowels will be promoted at all times.
- Your child will be kept under review by the assessing nurse, with the provision of suitable containment products. They will be provided by the contracted continence products provider.
- Products will not be prescribed as containment for a treatable condition such as night time wetting or soiling in relation to constipation, or for behavioral issues such as children who do not sit on the toilet to have their bowels open.
- Products are not prescribed for use during menstruation.
- Products are not prescribed for night time wetting once day time continence is managed without products.
- Products are not prescribed for an acute illness that results in a temporarily increase in the number of products required. Information will be given on where/how to access more.

Useful links

- **ERIC the Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity**
Website: www.eric.org.uk

- **Bladder and Bowel UK**
Supporting people with bladder and bowel problems
Tel: 0161 607 8219
Website: www.bladderandboweluk.co.uk
- **TENA** – www.tenadirect.co.uk

Further information

Paediatric Bladder & Bowel Care Service
Compton House
11 Park Five Business Centre
Sowton Industrial Estate
Exeter EX2 7HU

Tel: 01392 208044

Email: ndht.pbbc@nhs.net

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk.

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