

CS6.2 Management of Complex Bowel Care

Purpose

1. To assist P4 Movement employees to maintain a consistent quality standard of services delivered regarding the provision of bowel care in the community setting that reflects best practice.

Alignment with Practice Standards

1. Module 1: Rights and Responsibilities
2. Module 2: Provider Governance and Operational Management

Legislative Alignment

1. National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013

Key Responsible Executive

General Manager

For More Support

General Manager

Policy Statement

1. As a part of any community service or support delivered by support workers, P4 Movement will:
 - a. Assess the initial care needs with the Participant.
 - b. Determine the areas of bowel care that the support worker may attend.
 - c. Develop plans with identified outcomes.
 - d. Provide written procedures on the provision of bowel care by the support worker - this may be included as part of the plan.
 - e. Policies and procedures for bowel care should be clearly documented in the home and only changed by the doctor, registered nurse or person deemed competent by the provider.
 - f. Identify education needs for support workers.
 - g. Provide relevant competency-based training and assessment processes for the support workers to ensure they are competent to perform the prescribed duties, tasks and interventions.
 - h. Monitor, review, evaluate and adapt as required the service, plans and outcomes with the involvement of the Participant.
 - i. P4 Movement will request that initial bowel care training be provided by the discharging hospital.

Definitions

1. Carer is a person that provides supports to the Participant at no cost (generally family or friend).
2. Participant means the Participant, consumer or person receiving the nursing or community service or support. As Participant involvement and service direction has increased it is imperative to involve the Participant in all aspects of the service delivery and the direction of their services to their ability.
3. Plan means a Service Plan or Individual Plan (*however titled* – the plan) is a document developed in response to a request for service. It is developed by a skilled registered nurse or a person *deemed competent by P4 Movement* prior to the commencement of service delivery. It outlines the expected outcomes of the requested services and the tasks, duties and interventions required to meet the needs of the Participant (within the parameters of the funding program). The plan guides and directs the individual support worker in their day-to-day delivery of the services.
4. Registered Nurse means a person who has completed the prescribed educational preparation, demonstrated competence for practice, and is registered and licensed with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a registered nurse.
5. Support Worker Competency means a support worker who has been trained and assessed as competent by a skilled registered nurse or a person deemed competent by P4 Movement.
6. Digital Stimulation Digital rectal stimulation can be performed by gently inserting a gloved lubricated finger to the middle joint of the finger through the anus into the rectum and slowly rotating the finger in a circular motion maintaining contact with the rectal mucosa.
7. The Peristeen anal irrigation system is a medical device used to help empty the lower colon in patients who suffer from faecal incontinence, chronic constipation and/or need prolonged bowel cleansing procedures.
8. Autonomic Dysreflexia is a potentially dangerous clinical syndrome that develops in individuals with spinal injury, resulting in acute, sudden uncontrolled hypertension, Pounding headache, Bradycardia, Flushing, Blotching of skin above SCI level, Profuse sweating, Chills without fever, Nasal congestion, Blurred vision, Shortness of breath, Sense of apprehension or anxiety.
9. SCI Spinal Cord Injury.

Delegations

Roles	Responsibilities
Board of Directors	- Endorse and ensure compliance with the CS 6.2 Management of Complex Bowel Care Policy and Procedure - Be familiar with the organisation's legislative requirements relating to the policy
GM	- Manage and monitor compliance with this policy - Support staff competence and compliance with this policy and procedure
Management	- Manage and monitor compliance with this policy - Support staff competence and compliance with this policy and procedure
Staff, volunteers, contractors and students	- Comply with the CS 6.2 Management of Complex Bowel Care Policy and Procedure - Act in accordance with legislation and organisation's systems relating to the policy

Procedures

1. Support Workers
 - a. Support workers may:
 - i. Perform any task on the plan apart from those that must be performed by a registered nurse.
 - b. Support workers must:
 - i. Complete competency training and assessment in the task by the service provider.
 - ii. Follow the plan as provided by the service provider.
 - iii. Report to their supervisor any changes or variations for advice.
 - iv. Not change any plan.
 - v. Report any issues arising from the delivery of bowel care (such as: bowels not open, bleeding, constipation, diarrhoea, autonomic dysreflexia) to the service provider for further advice.
 - vi. Identify and report to their supervisor any gaps in their ability to deliver the required service.

References to other P4 Movement policies and external sources

1. CS6.1 High Intensity Care
2. ACIA 006 - Provision of Bowel Care by Support Workers
3. *Matching Participant needs and support worker skills in the New South Wales Motor Accidents Scheme*, Motor Accidents Authority NSW August 2003
4. *Guidelines for Levels of Attendant Care for People with Spinal Cord Injury*, Lifetime Care Support Authority NSW 2007

5. NSW Health – Various documents www.health.nsw.gov.au then go to 'Publications and Resources' 'Policy Directives and Guidelines' then either "search by A to Z" or search specific word/s eg. Bowel care
6. Management of the Neurogenic Bowel for Adults with Spinal Cord Injuries- ACI NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Published: February 2014
7. www.coloplast.com.au

Summary of attachments

1. Nil

Version Control

1. 1 April 2026 - New Policy Creation