

Bowel Management Devices and Supplies

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Health Equity Considerations

Health equity is the highest level of health for all individuals; health inequity is the avoidable difference in health status or distribution of health resources due to the social conditions in which individuals are born, grow, live, work, and age.

Social determinants of health are the conditions in the environment that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks. Examples include the following: safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods; racism, discrimination, and violence; education, job opportunities, and income; access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities; access to clean air and water; and language and literacy skills.

Criteria

- A bed pan (HCPCS E0275, E0276) may be considered medically necessary for an individual who is confined to a bed.
- The Peristeen transanal irrigation system (HCPCS A4459, A4453) may be considered medically necessary for the management of chronic neurogenic bowel when initial management involving diet, bowel habit, laxatives and/or constipating medications has failed.

Not Medically Necessary Indications

The following items are not covered as they do not meet the definition of durable medical equipment (DME), as they are non-reusable, hygienic items, and/or do not meet the definition of durability:

- disposable sheets and bags (HCPCS A4335)
- disposable underpads (HCPCS A4554) and non-disposable (HCPCS A4553) underpads
- incontinence garments (e.g., briefs, diapers) (HCPCS A4520)
- rectal inserts and related accessories (HCPCS A4337)
- gravity-administered enema systems (HCPCS A4458) and fecal collection systems and rectal catheters/tubes used with such systems

- pulsed irrigation and evacuation systems (HCPCS E0350, E0352)
- toilet seats, raised toilet seats, toilet seat lift mechanisms, bidets and bidet toilet seats are discussed in separate policies

Microprocessor electrical continence aids and related fecal collection systems and rectal catheters/tubes are considered experimental, investigational, or unproven (EIU).

Note:

For information related to EIU procedures or services, see EviCore's **Guideline Definitions** document.

Definitions

Rectal inserts act as a barrier to the passage of fecal matter through the rectum. These devices are composed of rubber, latex, silicone or other similar material. HCPCS A4337 includes the insert and any associated supplies or accessories for insertion and maintenance of the device.

Rectal catheters/tubes and related collection systems are products designed to be inserted into the rectum to collect fecal material. They also serve to assist in protection of perianal skin integrity in an individual with fluid and semi-fluid waste.

An **electrical continence aid** is a prosthetic device consisting of a plastic plug, molded into the shape of an individual's anal canal, which contains two implanted electrodes that are connected by a wire to a small portable generator. An electrical current is produced which stimulates the anal musculature to cause a contraction sufficient to hold the plug in while allowing the individual to ambulate without incontinence.

An **enema bag with tubing** (HCPCS A4458) describes a device used to empty the lower bowel and to prevent chronic constipation and fecal incontinence or simply as a method of bowel management. An enema system consists of an irrigation fluid holding chamber and a rectal catheter (with or without an inflatable balloon). Fluid is instilled via gravity.

The **Peristeen transanal irrigation system** (HCPCS A4459, A4453) is a device used to empty the lower bowel and to prevent chronic constipation and fecal incontinence in individuals with neurogenic bowel dysfunction. The system consists of a water reservoir, a screw top, a disposable rectal catheter with an inflatable balloon, a control unit, tubing, and a pump.

A **colorectal irrigation system** (HCPCS E0350) is an irrigation fluid holding chamber, a rectal catheter with an inflatable balloon and an electric pump. Irrigation fluid is administered in a pulsatile manner to hydrate stool to a semi-liquid form and allow the liquefied stool to evacuate. E0352 describes all disposable supplies and accessories

used with E0350 including, but not limited to, a water reservoir, speculum, valve mechanism and collection bag or box.

A **bed pan** (HCPCS E0275 and E0276) is a shallow vessel placed under a bedridden individual to collect feces and urine. To meet coverage criteria, they must be durable. Disposable bed pans are billed using HCPCS A9270 (NONCOVERED ITEM OR SERVICE).

Medical Background

- Incontinence garments may be used to manage urinary or fecal incontinence. These garments come in various forms and absorbency levels to suit different individual needs and preferences. These garments may include: adult diapers/briefs, underpads, bed pans, or incontinence pads.
- The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) considers incontinence garments to be Class 1, which is considered low to moderate risk and requires general controls.

Evidence Discussion

Bowel management devices have demonstrated significant clinical benefits for bowel dysfunction. Transanal irrigation (TAI) systems are commonly used for individuals with spina bifida and low anterior resection syndrome (LARS) and are an effective intervention for individuals experiencing fecal incontinence, incomplete evacuation, urgency, and constipation.^{1,2,3} TAI flushes residual matter from the colon and rectum through controlled water introduction via the anus. This approach allows "pseudo-incontinence" by allowing individuals to control the timing and location of defecation.¹ In individuals with spina bifida, TAI showed substantial improvements with neurogenic bowel dysfunction scores decreasing by 6.9 points compared to 1.9 in conservative treatment groups, while individuals with LARS experienced significant positive impacts on overall symptoms and bowel incontinence severity.²

Pulsed irrigation evacuation (PIE) is another mechanical bowel cleansing approach that uses microprocessor-controlled water pulses to irrigate the colon and stimulate evacuation. PIE is an effective intervention for individuals with spinal cord injuries or neurogenic bowel dysfunction. The PIE device introduces body-temperature tap water through an inflatable, retention-cuffed speculum at controlled flow rates of 50-100 mL

¹ Sharp G, Findlay N, Clark D, Hong J. Systematic review of the management options available for low anterior resection syndrome (LARS). *Tech Coloproctol.* 2025;29(1):58. Published 2025 Feb 4. doi:10.1007/s10151-024-03090-3

² Brochard C, Jezequel M, Blanchard-Dauphin A, et al. Transanal irrigation is a better choice for bowel dysfunction in adults with Spina bifida: A randomised controlled trial. *Colorectal Dis.* 2023;25(6):1267-1276. doi:10.1111/codi.16518

³ Yu M, Liu Y, Li N, et al. Optimal interventions for low anterior resection syndrome: Bayesian network meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Tech Coloproctol.* 2025;29(1):64. Published 2025 Feb 13. doi:10.1007/s10151-024-03099-8

per second, with programmed pauses allowing drainage of rehydrated fecal matter into a closed collecting system. This process has shown particular effectiveness at managing fecal impaction and regulating bowel movements in routine bowel care programs for individuals with spinal cord injuries.⁴

Codes

HCPSC Code	Description
A4335	Incontinence supply; miscellaneous
A4520	Incontinence garment, any type, (e.g., brief, diaper), each
A4554	Disposable underpads, all sizes
A4553	Non-disposable underpads, all sizes

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