

Abstract 1

Title: Continence Products Advisor – a new resource

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Introduction: Good, appropriate continence product selection can radically affect the quality of life of people with incontinence who are unable to be fully cured, are awaiting treatment or elect not to pursue treatment options.

The wide range of available products, the requirement for patient choice and economic pressures in healthcare mean that carefully considered product selection is increasingly important. The use of available evidence to support decision-making by health care professionals (HCP) and product users will help to ensure products are matched to need thereby maximising quality of life while avoiding costly purchasing mistakes and adverse effects.

Limitations of existing information sources: Evidence relating to all categories of continence products is reviewed and published every four years within the International Consultation on Incontinence (ICI) programme (Abrams et al, 2009). Although this material is in the public domain and efforts have been made to improve its user friendliness, it remains in a format aimed at HCPs.

Continence product information is increasingly web-based making it more accessible to product users. However, the information is often limited when:

- *country specific* (when provided by national organisations) making it less relevant for a worldwide audience.
- *brand specific* (when provided by product manufacturers) whereas generic longer-lasting information is required.

A novel website: This new, international website, currently under construction, will bridge the gap by building on the evidence-based guidelines in ICI5 and aims to:

- Identify the product groups most likely to help an individual
- Give a balanced view on strengths and limitations of product types
- Provide guidance on how to apply / use each product type (with video clips)
- Offer tips on effective product use in different situations
- Answer FAQs
- Link to ICI evidence where available
- Provide material that is useful for HCPs and product users

The site is international and generic with links to national organisations for local advice. This is an ICI/ICS collaboration; the website is being developed by the Continence & Skin Technology Group (UCL & University of Southampton, on behalf of the ICI) and the IT department of the International Continence Society. The Continence Products Advisor will be hosted by the ICS website. It is anticipated that the website will be launched in late 2012.

References

Abrams P, Cardozo L, Khoury S, Wein A (eds) 2009 Incontinence 4th edition Health Publication Ltd.