

Continence Aid Allocation Holder (Blue Bag) Protocol

The Continence Aid Allocation Holder, also know as the Blue Bag, contains a resident's printed individual continence profile/allocation card (printed from HealthPlus) and their allocated continence aids for a 24-Hour period. The three sections (morning/afternoon/night) correspond to time blocks throughout the day.

- How many and the style, absorbency and size of continence aids allocated is based the on assessed needs of each resident, and their allocation in HealthPlus.¹
- If the allocation needs to be reviewed or updated, please speak to your Continence Champion, Nursing Team Leader and/or Clinician Manager.
- Continence aid usage should correspond to the relevant time of day, see typical process below.
- Noting that each home may have a slightly different internal processes of when and how the Blue Bags are refilled within the 24-hour period.
- It's important to align continence promotion strategies to the individual and in a person-centred care manner, adhering to the resident's individual assessments, clinical needs, goals and care plan.
- Continence aids are designed to be used in collaboration with, and as part of holistic continence promotion strategies and interventions.



Continence Aid Allocation Schedule (24-Hour)

ے Morning

- Typically applied between 6:00 AM and 12:00 PM (noon).
- The morning continence aid will typically be applied on waking and as part of morning ADLs².
- Some residents may have a 2nd continence aid allocated during the morning shift based on individual assessed needs.

-\(\o'\)- Afternoon

- Typically applied between 12:00 PM (noon) and 6:00 PM.
- The afternoon continence aid will typically be applied after lunch or in the afternoon as required.
- Some residents may have a 2nd continence aid based on individual assessed needs.

C Evening & Night

- Typically applied between 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM.
- The night continence aid will typically be applied on settling/retiring to bed at night and/or with evening ADLs² and may have a higher absorbency to promote quality sleep.
- Some residents may have a 2nd continence aid allocated during the evening/overnight shift, and to be changed as required.

Additional Continence Aid Process

- Each home is encouraged to have an additional continence aid box or storage area accessible to staff for obtaining additional continence aids beyond the resident's allocated 24 hour supply in their Blue Bag.
- When a resident requires an extra/additional continence aid within a designated time block, such
 as morning, afternoon or night, and the continence aid(s) for that time block has already been used,
 staff are encouraged to utilise the 'Additional Continence Aid Box' and complete the 'Additional
 Continence Aid Form', rather than taking from another time block.
 - e.g. a resident might have experienced faecal incontinence and requires a continence aid change at 4:00pm (too early for the night continence aid), but the afternoon continence aid has already been used. Therefore, you would utilise the 'Additional Continence Aid Box' and complete the Form. When taking from the Additional Continence Aid Box, reminder to check the residents size in that particular style of continence aid.
- The purpose of implementing the additional continence aid system is to:
 - Ensure that the next shift/time block is not left without the allocated continence aid(s).
 - Support effective stock management and also ordering of continence aids, based on actual usage and assessed needs.
 - Using the 'Additional Continence Aid' Form serves as a trigger to review the resident's continence needs.
 - If frequent additional continence aid usage is observed, it may indicate the need for a different style or absorbency of continence aid for the resident. These forms should be regularly reviewed during stock take and ordering processes.

Additional Resources





Click the link below or scan the QR code to download **When to change a continence aid?**

http://q-r.to/whenchangepad

If an additional continence aid is required outside of the resident's allocation – take from the Additional Continence Aid Box and complete the Additional Continence Aid Form.





Click the link below or scan the QR code to download **Additional Continence Aid Form**

http://q-r.to/additionalpadform

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