

# Information for Clinical Choice

## Aids for Daily Living Framework

### Commodes, Shower Chairs and Shower Chair-Commodes

#### Introduction

Information for Clinical Choice (ICC) has been developed to assist Clinicians in the decision-making process when assessing the suitability of a product by providing a clear illustration and description of the features of a range of similar products supplied through NHS Supply Chain.

The criteria provided, is the result of a product review conducted by the clinical team in NHS Supply Chain with support from clinical stakeholders from across the NHS as part of our assurance process.

Commodes, Shower Chairs and Shower Chair-Commodes are assistive living aids and are used in a wide variety of health and care settings.

This document provides features and functions of products against defined criteria. Selecting the right features to match clinical needs and the care environment ensures optimal patient outcomes and delivers the best value for money for the NHS.

#### Standards

All products meet the **BS ISO 17966:2016: Assistive products for personal hygiene that support users - requirements and test methods**.

This tests the products on the following points:

- **Safety and Stability**
  - Ensures the product remains stable during use, including when the user shifts weight or moves.
  - Tests for tipping, slipping, or collapsing under expected loads.
- **Durability and Strength**
  - Verifies that the product can withstand repeated use over time.
  - Includes static and dynamic load testing to simulate real-world usage.
- **Corrosion Resistance**
  - Especially important for products used in wet environments like showers or bathrooms.
  - Materials are tested for resistance to rust and degradation.
- **Ergonomics and Usability**
  - Assesses whether the product is comfortable and easy to use for people with limited strength or dexterity.
  - Includes checks for grip surfaces, seat dimensions, and adjustability.
- **Cleaning and Hygiene**
  - Evaluates how easily the product can be cleaned and disinfected.
  - Ensures materials and design do not harbour bacteria or mould.
- **Instructions and Labelling**
  - Requires clear user instructions, including assembly, use, and maintenance.

- Labels must be legible and durable.

## Catalogue Descriptions

To reduce confusion, we have aligned base descriptions to the basic function of the product – see below.

### Commode

A portable chair with a built-in toilet seat and a removable container or space for removable bed pan underneath. Can be static, attendant propelled or self-propelled.

### Shower Chair

A waterproof seat with drainage holes designed to be used in the shower or bath to help individuals who have difficulty standing for long periods or are at risk of slipping. Can be static, wall fixed, attendant propelled or self-propelled.

### Shower Chair/Commode Modular

Combines the features of a shower chair and a commode chair. Its components can be removed down to the frame which allows deep cleaning – this is particularly key in high use areas such as hospital settings. Can be attendant propelled or self-propelled.

The modular element means that if a part gets damaged, the part can be replaced without taking the whole chair out of circulation. This may provide a lower cost over the lifetime of the commode and a more sustainable option.

### Shower Chair/Commodes Non-Modular

Combines the features of a shower chair and a commode chair. It has no modular components. Can be attendant propelled or self-propelled.

We capture some important product information in the secondary part of the description to assist in decision making. The feature form allows us to present more detailed information to consider for purchasing decisions.

## Material and Feature Considerations

Ensure that the frame material will meet the need for the environment it will be used in. Products made from Aluminium, Moulded Plastic and Stainless Steel may be more expensive but are likely to give a greater life span and therefore providing greater value, despite a higher upfront cost.

Finish Type	Material	Purpose / Benefits
Powder-Coated Steel	Steel with powder coating	Rust-resistant, durable and cost-effective. Often used in lower priced models. Less suitable for shower chairs.
Chrome-Plated Steel	Steel with chrome plating	Shiny finish, which is corrosion-resistant. Easier to clean but can be slippery when wet.
Anodised Aluminium	Lightweight aluminium alloy	Rust-resistant, lightweight, ideal for wet environments like showers.
Plastic (Polypropylene or PVC)	Moulded plastic	Lightweight, waterproof, and easy to clean.
Stainless Steel	High-grade stainless steel	Durable, rust-proof and hygienic. Common in hospital-grade due to resilience to repeated cleaning and typically have a higher working load.

### Fixed vs Removable Arms

Removable arms should be used with patients who are unable to transfer independently from one surface to another. Removing the arms allows the patient to slide from one surface to the commode without having to stand up and therefore may reduce the risk of falls in those who are unsteady.

### Under chair containers

Commodes for use in home or community settings will have a bowl and a lid. Products used in high use areas such as hospitals will have under chair racking to fit a bed pan.

We have created a product matrix which accompanies this document allowing you to filter the products to decide on the best product for your clinical area and patients.

It can be viewed and downloaded from the [Contract Information Page](#).

### Contacts

If you have any questions, would like further information, or have feedback to share, please contact:

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