

Innovation Brief

Medical Pulp and Associated Products UniWee Universal Urinal

Summary

Incremental Innovation

This briefing introduces an incremental innovation newly available via NHS Supply Chain: The UniWee Universal Urinal (a disposable female urinal bottle) has been reviewed by clinical specialists and supported by key stakeholders.

This product offers a novel approach to managing toileting of immobile female and transgender patients.

Introduction

This document is intended to inform clinical stakeholders and procurement teams about innovative products that have undergone a clinical review and are now accessible through NHS Supply Chain.

Products featured in this brief may be classified as:

- Incremental innovation

Incremental innovation is defined as an improvement to a device that already exists within the health system that positively affects the delivery of care or wider system.

Note: While robust evidence or validated savings may not yet be available, early data and clinical insights support the potential for patient and system-level improvements.

Departments / Stakeholders for Engagement

- NHS Procurement Teams.
- Clinical Procurement Specialist Network.
- Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Opportunity

The UniWee Universal Urinal presents an opportunity to support female patients who are bed-bound and unable to access a toilet.

- UniWee is a urine-collecting bottle made from disposable pulp designed for those without male genitalia to use. Such patients can urinate directly into a UniWee when lying or sitting in bed by themselves or with help.
- The UniWee can be disposed of by maceration, which involves breaking down the material into a watery slurry that can be discharged into the sewer system. UniWee provides patients with female anatomy with the same advantages as the male urinal bottle as this allows the patient to urinate without repositioning.

Innovation Brief

Product Overview

A modified male urinal bottle (UniWee) has been used for many years in Great Western Hospital (GWH) Emergency Department (ED). In the past it has only been made by a small number of staff.

A patient attended GWH ED in January 2021 with a periprosthetic femur fracture and was adamant that she did not want to be moved onto a bedpan. She was grateful for and satisfied with the modified male urinal bottle that she was able to use independently. This patient's enthusiasm inspired GWH to consider that the female urinal might have a more widespread application beyond their department and potential to benefit many patients whilst also addressing an inequity in bladder management.

The UniWee concept was evaluated among patients and staff in several wards and hospitals in England and was found to be acceptable to both patients and healthcare staff. Patients reported minimal pain with use and staff felt it created less work and avoided potential injury from the need to move patients onto traditional bedpans. This work has been published in the Emergency Medicine Journal.

In parallel, GWH approached a supplier (Omni- Pac MFP) to manufacture the UniWee product commercially. As a result, the UniWee concept began.

- UniWee reduces the need for catheterisation, reduces UTI risk for female patients, and improves patient dignity.
- UniWee provides a more comfortable shape for female and transgender patients than existing products.
- Gives consistency to practices.
- Female patients with lower limb fractures experience pain and loss of dignity when manoeuvred onto a bedpan.
- Poor bladder management, including urinary catheterisation for convenience, can lead to longer hospital stays.
- Clinicians at Great Western Hospital Emergency Department had been modifying disposable male urinal bottles to accommodate use by female patients, without the need to reposition.

The Facilities and Office Solution category team identified that this product could be considered universal, further reducing the need to duplicate products, and allow trusts to offer fully inclusive, gender-neutral solution for all patients.

- Made from recycled material overissued newspaper or kraft.(a strong, durable type of paper pulp)
- The price bracket will be around £0.19 cheaper than the alternative female urinal on the NHS Supply Chain catalogue.
- ARC Health of Innovation West / Senior Analyst Unity West have completed a cost benefit analysis to validate the savings based on a number of catheterised patients, outpatient appointments due to UTI's and staff time taking patients to commode.

Clinical Relevance

The final study cohort included:

- 103 immobile female patients
- 118 healthcare professionals

Patients felt they avoided pain because the urinal minimised movement, and that it was a more dignified way to void their bladder.

Innovation Brief

Healthcare professionals felt that the potential advantages were reducing the need for urinary catheters and reducing lifting and log rolling patients.

A disposable urinal that accommodates female anatomy and supplies the same advantage as the male urinal bottle in allowing the patient to void the bladder without repositioning, appears to be acceptable to patients and staff and would have value in many clinical settings.

[Provided by Great Western Hospitals NHS Trust]

Additional Benefits

- Potential carbon/ plastic saving resulting from switch from single-use plastic catheter and clinical waste disposal cost.

Cautions

- Not all trusts have a standardised process for toileting immobile female, trans patients.

Pathway Change

- We would be hopeful of a pathway change but alternatively UniWee would become best practice for adopting trusts toileting of immobile female, trans patients.



Supply Details

- NPC – FBF85286
- MPC – 9067
- Route – eDirect
- Supplier – Moulded Fibre Products Limited
- Brand – Carepulp
- Unit of Issue – case of 50
- Class 1 Medical Device – No Shelf Life – Single Use

Innovation Brief

Contact Details

Clinical: Dr Sian Thomas
sian.thomas9@nhs.net

Category Manager: Parmjit Gill
Parmjit.gil@supplychain.nhs.uk

Care Pathway Team (1st Point of Contact)
cpt.vbhenquiries@supplychain.nhs.uk

Category Buyer: Kirsty Dodson
Kirsty.dodson@supplychain.nhs.uk