Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) – Application Guidelines for Continence Aids

Continence Aids

This section must be read in conjunction with the General Guidelines

Eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons eligible</th>
<th>Conditions of eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be eligible for MASS subsidy funding assistance applicants must have a permanent and stabilised condition.</td>
<td>This condition must be confirmed following assessment, management and reassessment of potentially treatable conditions, including relevant co-morbidities and activities of daily living. This includes medical condition(s) and/or other factors contributing to the applicant’s incontinence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASS defines a permanent and stabilised condition as one where the diagnosis is known to require the assistance of continence aids for the long term.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligible prescribers

Applicants wishing to apply must consult one of the following MASS designated prescribers:

- Continence Specialist Registered Nurse
- Geriatrician
- Occupational Therapist
- Paediatrician
- Physiotherapist
- Registered Nurse
- Urogynaecologist/Gynaecologist
- Urologist

MASS will consider **three yearly review** MASS 50 application forms submitted from Indigenous Health Workers and/or an Enrolled Nurse where there is evidence of consultation with one of the above MASS designated prescribers.
## Application Requirements for Continence Aids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Application Requirements</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| All applications | See specific requirements below for initial and reapplication to MASS | • MASS provides a subsidised supply of continence aids every 6 monthly calendar period  
• The exceptions to this are indwelling catheters, bed and chair pads which are supplied 12 monthly  
• Clients will receive an approval letter when an order has been approved and placed with the commercial supplier/s  
• **This letter must be retained for future reference** | • MASS requires 1 month to process applications  
• If further information is required by MASS regarding the application, the 1 month processing period may be exceeded. |

### Initial application for supply of continence aids

- MASS50 Continence Aids: Initial and Review Application form  
  *Note: form must be signed by both prescriber and applicant/carer*  
- Signed MASS 84 Proxy Access to Centrelink Information form or photocopy of both sides of the applicant’s concession card  
- Supporting clinical information  

Supporting clinical information is required to confirm clinical eligibility  
- Continence assessment and management/care plan or  
- Health assessment/care plan including continence management or  
- Summary of continence tertiary treatment/intervention  

• A waiting list may occur when demand for subsidy assistance exceeds available resources  
• Prioritisation criteria has been developed by MASS based on clinical need.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Application Requirements</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Client reapplication for ongoing supplies of continence aids where there is no change to the type of continence aid required by applicant and the 3 yearly review is not required by MASS** | - Call MASS on 3136 3665 or 1300 443 570 to place an order  
- Please have the previous approval letter available when calling to assist with the re-order, including the type and brand name of the continence aids | - The ongoing supply of continence aids does not automatically occur, MASS applicants must reapply | - Reapply 1 month prior to next supply. |
| **Review application for ongoing supplies of continence aids where there is a change to the type of continence aid required by applicant or a 3 yearly review is required by MASS** | - MASS50 Continence Aids Initial and Review Application form  
**Note: form must be signed by both prescriber and applicant/carer**  
- Photocopy of both sides of the applicant’s current concession card (unless MASS 84 has been submitted) | - A review of continence management/care plan is required every 3 years or when there is a change in the applicant’s health care needs  
- A clinical review needs to consider potentially reversible and treatable causes of incontinence, and the suitability of continence aid/s requested | - Applications must be received 1 month prior to next supply. |
Continence aids MASS subsidy levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Application Requirements</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>Timing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incomplete applications</td>
<td></td>
<td>Incomplete application forms will not proceed further, and the prescriber and applicant/carer will be advised.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late applications</td>
<td></td>
<td>Late applications will incur a delay in supply.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subsidy Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continence aids</th>
<th>MASS subsidy levels</th>
<th>May be subsidised when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reusable absorbent pants</td>
<td>Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods  Supply is the same for children (5 to 15 years of age) and adults</td>
<td>• Can be supplied in a combination with other types of continence aids.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Disposable pads for a child           | **Child is 5 to 15 years of age**  
  • up to 4 pads a day
  Level of need subsidy funding assistance is based on an incremental scale and will be calculated by MASS according to justified clinical need (i.e. quantities used).
  Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods | • Permanent and stabilised disability
  • Urinary and faecal incontinence
  • MASS makes considerations for children with complex needs
  • MASS does not supply continence aids for other body fluids. |
## Continence aids

### Disposable pads for an adult

**MASS subsidy levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Daily pads required</th>
<th>MASS supply quantity (adult)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 pads</td>
<td>up to 1 pads/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pads</td>
<td>up to 2 pads/day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**May be subsidised when**

- Permanent and stabilised disability
- Urinary and faecal incontinence
- MASS does **not** supply continence aids for other body fluids.

### Disposable pull-on style pads

As per disposable pad subsidy for a child or adult

Points to consider for selection:

- The applicant has difficulty applying or maintaining correct position of disposable shaped pads
- The applicant will not wear a pad due to cognitive/compliance issues
- The applicant has been using the pull-on style for a significant period
- Security of containment for faecal incontinence
- Conduct a specific assessment to ensure ability of applicant/carer to apply and remove pull-on style pads
- Applicant/carer aware of financial implication for private purchase of pull-on style

Consult with the MASS continence clinical advisor or other continence advisor specialists as necessary to assist with the prescription/application process.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continence aids</th>
<th>MASS subsidy levels</th>
<th>May be subsidised when</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Reusable stretch pants         | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods  
Supply is the same for children and adults | • Will only be supplied for use with a non adhesive pad.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Disposable all-in-one pads     | As per disposable pad subsidy for a child or adult                                    | Points to consider for selection:  
• The applicant will require assistance with putting on the all-in-one style pad  
• Pad application is usually undertaken with assistance in a lying position.                                                                                                                                         |
| Reusable bed and chair pads    | 2 supplied on initial application  
1 per 12 months thereafter | • Clinical implications need to be considered when an applicant is using a reusable absorbent bed/chair pad with a pressure relieving mattress/cushion.                                                                 |
| Disposable catheters           | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods  
Supply is the same for children and adults | • Can be supplied to a child from birth  
• Can be supplied in combination with other types of continence aids  
• MASS does not supply catheters to applicants with ostomies (urinary or faecal diversions) who may be eligible with the Ostomy Scheme. |
| Indwelling catheters           | Subsidised in 12 monthly calendar periods  
Supply is the same for children and adults | • Can be supplied to a child from birth  
• Can be supplied in combination with other types of continence aids.                                                                                                                                               |
| Penile sheaths                 | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods  
Supply is the same for children and adults | • Can be supplied in combination with other types of continence aids.                                                                                                                                                  |
| Night urinary drainage bags    | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods | • MASS does not supply urinary drainage bags to applicants with ostomies (urinary or faecal diversions) who may be eligible with the Ostomy Scheme  
• MASS may consider drainage bags not available on the Ostomy Scheme.                                                                                                                                           |
Continence aids | MASS subsidy levels | May be subsidised when
--- | --- | ---
**Leg drainage bags** | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods Supply is the same for children and adults | • Includes leg straps • Can be supplied with night drainage bags in the same 6 month supply period.

**Catheter valves** | Subsidised in 6 monthly calendar periods Supply is the same for children and adults | • Can be supplied with night drainage bags • Will not be supplied with leg bags in the same 6 monthly supply period.

**Combination of different types of continence aids** | Reduced supply may occur depending on the type and packaging (e.g. applicants requiring a combination of disposable pads and disposable catheters will receive a reduced supply of pads and catheters) | • Prescriber to advise applicant of possible reduced supply.

**Requested continence aids not on the MASS Standing Offer Arrangement (SOA) approved continence aids list** | Applicant to consider that they may receive a reduced supply in comparison to that of a similar continence aid on the SOA MASS will consider a combination of non SOA continence aids if it meets specific criteria including packaging and product usage | • Prescriber to define the clinical appropriateness of the non SOA product which includes why the comparable SOA aids are not suitable • Prescriber to advise applicant of possible reduced supply in comparison to an SOA product.

**Miscellaneous continence products** | MASS only considers supply of containment aids, conduction aids and occlusive devices **MASS does not subsidise:** • disposable liners or booster pads • miscellaneous items used for catheter or bowel management/treatment/evacuation • products for catheter change including catheter pack and lubricant • disposable gloves • urinals.
Reference Documents
Prescribers are directed to the MASS website www.health.qld.gov.au/mass for details of additional documents to support with selection of continence aids on the MASS Standing Offer Arrangement. This includes:

- SOA Approved Continence Aids List
- Continence Aids Supplier List
- Continence Product Information Sheet.

Additional Prescriber Responsibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>MASS subsidy</th>
<th>Prescriber responsibilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subsidy funding levels</strong></td>
<td>MASS provides subsidy funding assistance for applicants and is not intended to provide for all continence needs, rather, to assist as many eligible persons as possible</td>
<td>• Prescriber must advise applicants where additional continence aids can be privately purchased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Packaging quantities</strong></td>
<td>Quantities of subsidised products allocated to individual applicants will vary slightly in number due to the variety of commercial packaging quantities</td>
<td>• Prescriber and applicant should consider carton quantities as indicated on the Approved Continence Aids List which will assist in ensuring maximum subsidy funding levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incorrect prescription</strong></td>
<td>MASS will not exchange or substitute continence aid/s once an order has been placed with the commercial supplier/s</td>
<td>• If inappropriate continence aids have been prescribed for the applicant, MASS will refer applicant/carer back to the prescriber’s agency for their consideration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>