Continence subsidy schemes in Queensland

Chronic Conditions Integrated Management Service - Continence Advisory Service.

- Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)
- Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)

Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS)

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) provides eligible Queensland residents who have a permanent and stabilised medical condition/s or a disability, access to subsidy funding for the provision of MASS endorsed aides/equipment.

To be eligible for MASS you must be a Queensland resident and have a Centrelink Pension Concession Card, a Health Care Card, a Queensland Government Seniors Card or a Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Pensioner Concession Card (if not eligible through DVA for the continence aids). MASS funding is a subsidy scheme which partly funds the purchase of some aids and equipment. It is not intended to meet your total needs.

Initially, a MASS Designated Prescriber (a registered nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, continence advisor, paediatrician, urologist, geriatrician or urogynaecologist) will talk to you about your bladder/bowel management (continence) and complete a MASS 50 application form. A copy of your concession card will be required.

**MASS will not exchange or substitute** continence products, therefore it is important that the products ordered for you are the most suitable available to meet your needs. It may be necessary to trial some sample products prior to your MASS application being submitted. Every six months you will need to reorder your continence aids using a MASS 55 form. This form will be posted to you by MASS. Two Yearly Reviews: It is a MASS requirement that a MASS Designated Prescriber reviews your bladder and bowel management every two years and completes a MASS 50 application.

If you run out of supplies before your next MASS order is due, you will have to purchase products at your own expense. If you want to order a different product prior to your two yearly review please phone your MASS Designated Prescriber. There are no charges to you for this service.
Continence Aids Payment Scheme (CAPS)

The CAPS is an Australian Government Scheme administered by Medicare Australia.

The scheme provides a payment to assist eligible people who have permanent and severe incontinence to meet some of the costs of their incontinence products.

To be eligible for the CAPS you must be over the age of five years and have a permanent and severe loss of bladder and or bowel function due to an eligible neurological condition for example Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s Disease or Stroke (CVA).

If your loss of bladder/bowel function is not due to an eligible neurological condition you may still be eligible for CAPS funding if you have permanent and severe loss of bladder and or bowel function due to another condition, for example prostate disease or bladder cancer and you have a valid pensioner concession card, or if you are under the age of 16 years, your parent/guardian has a pensioner concession card.

CAPS applicants can choose one full payment in July, or two half payments in July and January each year.

Medicare Australia will make the payment directly to your nominated bank account. The payment can also be made directly to a nominated organization or service provider, who will be responsible for purchasing the continence products. A separate authorisation form is available from Medicare.

The CAPS payment is income tax exempt and will not affect your pension. To apply for the CAPS an application form, which includes a health report must be completed.

A health professional must complete the health report and all documents must be returned to Medicare for approval.

Medicare Australia will assess the application and if all the required information is provided, make the payment to the nominated bank account.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding CAPS please phone Medicare Australia 13 20 11 or contact your local community health centre or health professional.