

5. Bowel Management

5.1 STANDARD: Each patient will have an assessment of bowel function. A bowel program will be initiated and followed for all patients in order to strive for regular and complete emptying of bowels.

Minimum Requirements:

- Facility has bowel management policy and procedures/guidelines in place
- All appropriate care providers trained to follow policy and procedure/guidelines on bowel management
- All pertinent care providers are trained in appropriate technique and use of adaptive equipment for bowel emptying
- Site-specific bowel management program in place encompassing assessment, intervention, and ongoing management
- Access to bowel management assessment and monitoring as needed

Recommended Resources:

- PVA Consumer Guide Neurogenic Bowel: What You Should Know* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/n3qfaxl>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Neurogenic Bowel Management in Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/kzkbfw>
- University of Alabama InfoSheets Bowel Management after Spinal Cord Injury <http://tinyurl.com/kbw43ws>
- Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE) Project factsheet <http://tinyurl.com/nypud95> Canadian sourced

5.2 STANDARD: Staff members will be able to identify complications of ineffective bowel management and provide appropriate intervention.

Minimum Requirements:

- All appropriate care providers trained to identify signs and symptoms of bowel dysfunction
- Ongoing bowel monitoring and assessment to diagnose and develop treatment plans for bowel complications
- Process in place for measuring outcomes

Recommended Resources:

- One page information sheet plus extra notes for each individual patient being discharged from acute rehabilitation with specific comments regarding their bowel program
- PVA Consumer Guide Neurogenic Bowel: What You Should Know* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/n3qfaxl>
- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Neurogenic Bowel Management in Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/kzkbfw>
- University of Alabama InfoSheets: Bowel Management after Spinal Cord Injury <http://tinyurl.com/kbw43ws>

THIS TOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE MEDICAL ADVICE. It is intended for informational purposes only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Never ignore professional medical advice in seeking treatment because of something you have read in the Toolkit. If you think you may have a medical emergency, immediately dial 911.

- Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Evidence (SCIRE) Project factsheet <http://tinyurl.com/nypud95> Canadian sourced
- Spaulding-Harvard Model System patient education bowel PowerPoint presentation Bowel and Bladder Management <http://tinyurl.com/mve9nwv>

5.3 STANDARD: Individuals, family members and caregivers taking part in inpatient rehabilitation for SCI will receive appropriate education in bowel management techniques to maximize functional independence and minimize secondary health conditions.

Minimum Requirements:

- Patient and/or caregiver competency established via verbal recall and/or demonstration

Recommended Resources:

- PVA Clinical Practice Guideline Neurogenic Bowel Management in Adults with Spinal Cord Injury* available for free download <http://tinyurl.com/kzkbfw> specifically pp. 29-31

* To access, Adobe must be installed on your device

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