

Quantity recommendations for catheter products for GP practices

Spend on catheters within the North East is high, and there is some evidence that there is wastage in the form of stockpiling in patient's homes and in care homes. There are also concerns about the appropriateness of some prescribing of urinary catheters, rather than assessing the need for a urinary catheter which could potentially lead to patient harm, in particular increasing the risk of catheter associated urinary tract infections and gram negative blood stream infections. The use of catheters has been associated with these serious bloodstream infections, and reducing these is a national priority.

This summary has been developed to highlight reasonable quantities with regards to catheters, in order to empower GP practice staff to improve prescribing, ensure patient safety and minimise waste. Practices may use this guide to identify patients who require quantity optimisation on repeat prescribing systems, or to highlight those who are using large quantities who may benefit from review.

This table should be used as a guide only, and indicates average quantities. Please take patient circumstances into consideration when determining appropriate quantities to supply, and discuss with a specialist nurse if unsure.

Appliance	Frequency of change	Recommended monthly quantity	Additional information
Indwelling catheters (Foley)	Up to 12 weeks (long term)	One (plus one spare) every three months	Ensure one spare
	Up to 4 weeks (medium term)	One (plus one spare) every month	Ensure one spare
Intermittent (single use) Catheters (PVC or self-lubricating)	Between 1 – 5 times daily	Average use - 125	
Catheter valves	Every 5 – 7 days	5	No more than 5 (one packet) / month
Penile Sheath systems	Usually one per day	30	
Leg bags	Usually one bag every 5 – 7 days	5	One box of 10 should last 2 months
Non sterile non drainable single use (Non- drainable night bags)	One bag per day	30	Use one each night
Sterile 2 litre drainable bag (Night bags)	Usually one bag every 5 – 7 days	5	One box of 10 should last 2 months
Catheter fixation straps		See comments	Pack of 5 every 4 - 6 months
Catheter bag sleeves		See comments	Pack of 4 every 6 months
Drainable dribbling devices		1	
Urinal systems	Patients require 2 - 1 to wear, 1 to wash	See comments	Twice yearly (every 6 months)

*Table taken from PrescQipp