

Intermittent urethral catheters for chronic incomplete bladder emptying in adults: late-stage assessment

Resource impact assessment

At the committee meeting on 16 January 2025, an analyst from the Resource Impact Assessment (RIA) team presented to the committee the potential annual costs of each intermittent catheter feature.

The resource impact calculations presented were based on information in the EAG report, specifically around the stated number of people assumed to be using intermittent catheters, the portion of catheters prescribed with each feature and the estimated average cost of each individual feature obtained from the EAG's multiple regression model. During the presentation, the following limitations around the calculations were highlighted to the committee:

- The cost of each individual feature obtained from the EAG's multiple regression model might not be a true representation. The limitations around the estimated cost of a feature means that costs set out may not truly represent the costs incurred or achievable savings in real terms.
- Calculations were based on the 95,437,405 intermittent catheters prescribed in 2023/24. This results in an estimated 52,300 people using 5 intermittent catheters per day for each day of the year. The proportion of people assumed to be using each additional feature is based on an analysis of prescription cost data.

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Information shown to the committee around the number of people assumed to be using each catheter feature is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 number of people assumed to be using each feature (based on the EAG report)

Intermittent catheter feature	Total annual number of people receiving catheters	Proportion of catheters prescribed with that feature	Number of people using intermittent catheter feature
Enhanced coating	52,300	81.9%	42,834
Integrated drainage bag	52,300	10.0%	5,230
Tip protector or introducer	52,300	21.7%	11,349
Integrated handle or markings	52,300	52.4%	27,405
Specially designed packaging	52,300	83%	43,409
Insertion sleeve or grip	52,300	45.5%	23,797
Micro-hole zone technology	52,300	0.2%	105
Specially designed catheter case	52,300	57.6%	30,125

Information shown to the committee around the costs of the features is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Annual cost of each feature (based on the EAG report)

Intermittent catheter feature	Number of people using intermittent catheter feature	Estimated cost of additional feature per catheter	Assumed annual cost per person based on 5 catheters per day x 365 days	Estimated annual spend on additional feature based on proportion of catheters prescribed with this feature in 23/24
Enhanced coating	42,834	£0.25 increase	£456	£19.5m
Integrated drainage bag	5,230	£0.89 increase	£1,624	£8.5m
Tip protector or introducer	11,349	£0.28 increase	£511	£5.8m
Integrated handle or markings	27,405	£0.10 increase	£182	£5.0m
Specially designed packaging	43,409	£0.06 increase	£109	£4.8m
Insertion sleeve or grip	23,797	No significant difference in price	£0	£0
Micro-hole zone technology	105	No significant difference in price	£0	£0
Specially designed catheter case	30,125	No significant difference in price	£0	£0

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Conclusion

The limitations around the estimated cost of a feature obtained from the EAG's multiple regression model means that costs set out may not truly represent the costs incurred or achievable savings in real terms. Potential savings would depend on the additional cost of each feature, local current practice, prices being paid, and the considerations for choosing the least expensive option outlined in the draft recommendations.