

One-piece closed bags for colostomies: late-stage assessment

Information for the public

Published: 10 July 2025

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You should have access to one-piece closed bags that are clinically appropriate and meet your needs and preferences.

You and your healthcare professional should decide together which one-piece closed bag to use for your colostomy (see the [NICE webpage on shared decision making](#)). Decisions should take into account how the bag might prevent leakage, seepage and peristomal skin complications (problems with the skin around the stoma, such as pain, irritation or damage).

Things to consider when using one-piece closed bags

- There is a range of one-piece closed bags (from several companies) available for prescription in the NHS. But not all one-piece closed bags will be appropriate for you. You should be given information about those that are.
- If more than 1 bag is clinically appropriate and meets your needs and preferences, your healthcare professional will offer you the least expensive one. This is because this assessment found no evidence to show why one bag should cost more than another.
- Your needs and preferences may change over time. Seek support from a healthcare professional if the bag you use causes complications, such as leakage or skin irritation, to see if changing the bag type (or supporting products) helps.

Information and support

The [NHS webpage on colostomy](#) may be a good place to find out more.

These organisations can give you advice and support:

- [Crohn's and Colitis UK](#), 0300 222 5700
- [Colostomy UK](#), 0800 328 4257

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-7729-1