



## Public Statement from the Stoma Product Assessment Panel: Cleanser Wipe products on the Stoma Appliance Scheme

### Background

On 1 October 2023, changes were made to access arrangements for cleanser wipe products in subgroup 9(d) on the Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) Schedule.

These changes:

- introduced an R1 restriction for cleanser wipe products. An R1 restriction requires ostomates to seek authorisation to access products listed on the SAS Schedule from an authorised health professional. This can include a Stomal Therapy Nurse (STN), Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse or Registered Medical Professional.
- standardised the maximum monthly quantity for cleanser wipes to 60 units per month but removed the previous R2 restriction preventing ostomates from seeking authorisation for additional supplies of cleanser wipes.

The R1 restriction for cleanser wipes included a requirement for ostomates to seek reauthorisation every six months to continue to access cleanser wipe products on the SAS.

The changes were recommended by the Stoma Product Assessment Panel (SPAP) and were agreed by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP.

The SPAP recommended the R1 restriction on these products to ensure all ostomates are using the products appropriately and that the products are suitable for the management of their stomas. In making its recommendation, a key consideration for the SPAP was that for most ostomates, best practice indicates water, soap and a lint-free cloth for cleaning of peristomal area.

### Context for reconsideration

Following implementation of the changes, the Department of Health and Aged Care received a significant amount of feedback regarding the changes. The majority of feedback was from ostomates who raised concerns around difficulties in accessing health professionals to seek authorisation to access cleanser wipe products, the costs associated with seeing these health professionals, and the frequency of authorisation.

### SPAP recommendation

At the request of the Department, the SPAP considered the feedback received and the potential impact of the changes on ostomates.

The SPAP confirmed its previous recommendation that an R1 restriction is appropriate for cleanser wipe products. The SPAP agreed that, while cleanser wipes may be appropriate for some ostomates, best practice indicates the use of water, soap and a lint-free cloth for cleaning the peristomal skin. The SPAP also noted that multiple product sponsors, including those who provide cleanser wipes through the SAS, recommend water for cleaning the peristomal skin.

However, in recognition of the issues identified through feedback, and particularly the costs and challenges associated with accessing health professionals, the SPAP recommended changing the six-month authorisation requirement to a one-off authorisation without the need for ostomates to seek reauthorisation. This is consistent with other R1 restrictions on the SAS.



This means that once an authorised health professional has provided authorisation for an ostomate to use cleanser wipes, no further reauthorisation will be required and ostomates can continue to access cleanser wipes through the SAS without the need for further authorisation. The SPAP noted that ostomates requiring more than 60 cleanser wipes per month will still need to seek authorisation for extra supplies every six months, in line with standard SAS processes for accessing additional supplies.

The SPAP agreed that further consideration is required of whether it is appropriate for cleanser wipes to be subsidised through the SAS. The SPAP will consider this in the context of the broader SAS Schedule Review, which is currently underway. Through this Review the SPAP will consider the appropriateness and clinical effectiveness of all products currently listed on the SAS Schedule and provide recommendations to Government.

#### [Government Agreement](#)

The SPAP provided its updated recommendation to Government for consideration. Government has agreed to the change with an implementation date of 1 February 2024.