

Activity 5 – Managing toilet needs or incontinence

This activity considers a claimant’s ability to get on and off the toilet, to manage evacuation of the bladder and/or bowel and to clean afterwards.

This activity does **not** consider the ability to manage clothing, climb stairs or mobilise to the toilet.

Notes:

Managing incontinence means the ability to manage involuntary evacuation of the bladder and/or bowel including the use of a collecting device or self- catheterisation and cleaning oneself afterwards.

Claimants with indwelling (permanent) catheters or stoma are considered incontinent for the purposes of this activity.

If the urinary tract is normal there will be little risk of incontinence no matter how long it takes to mobilise to the toilet. If there is, however, a bladder problem and the claimant will be incontinent before they reach the toilet, then a commode could be considered as an aid for the bladder condition (toilet needs) not for the mobility problem (mobility needs). Urinary tract conditions that cause urgency of micturition will be relevant in this context; - other urinary tract conditions may not be relevant.

Toilet needs is defined as:

- (a) getting on and off an unadapted toilet;**
- (b) evacuating the bladder and bowel; and**
- (c) cleaning oneself afterwards.**

Help is needed with managing toileting if a claimant needs assistance with one or more of these three actions.

If an individual cannot reliably complete an activity in the way described in a descriptor then they should be considered unable to complete it at that level and an alternative descriptor selected.

A	Can manage toilet needs or incontinence unaided.	0
<p>Within the assessment criteria, the ability to perform an activity ‘unaided’ means without either the use of aids or appliances; or help from another person.</p> <p>Descriptor (A) should be appropriate for claimants who use a commode due to limited mobility (and therefore have difficulty mobilising to the toilet) but otherwise can manage their toilet needs or incontinence.</p>		

B	Needs to use an aid or appliance to be able to manage toilet needs or incontinence.	
	For example: the claimant is unable to use a standard toilet due to their health condition or impairment. Suitable aids could include commodes, raised toilet seats and bottom wipers, incontinence pads or a stoma bag.	2
C	Needs supervision or prompting to be able to manage toilet needs.	
	'Prompting' means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person. For example: may apply to claimants who need to be reminded to go to the toilet or need supervision to ensure they cleanse properly.	2
D	Needs assistance to be able to manage toilet needs.	
	This descriptor refers to claimants who require assistance to get on and off the toilet, evacuate the bladder and bowel to clean themselves afterwards, but not to claimants who require assistance due to incontinence. Claimants requiring assistance who are also incontinent are covered by descriptors 5E and 5F.	4
E	Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of either bladder or bowel.	
	For example may apply to a claimant who requires assistance to change a stoma bag.	6
F	Needs assistance to be able to manage incontinence of both bladder and bowel.	
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