

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No.248b (TVPC 3a) Anal Irrigation Systems for the Management of Faecal Incontinence/Constipation

Recommendation by TVPC January 2014/ updated July 2018¹ and May 2021²

Date of issue: September 2021

Anal irrigation, also known as transanal irrigation or rectal irrigation is a method of emptying the lower bowel using warm tap water³. Anal irrigation may be used in a number of clinical scenarios to facilitate bowel management and thus improve the quality of life of people with chronic faecal incontinence and/or constipation.

The Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for the use of anal irrigation systems and **recommends** their use only:

- for patients **who have exhausted all other conservative treatment options, appropriate to their needs**; (see Appendix 1)
- following a referral to a specialist continence nurse or therapist-led specialised bowel management service OR to a secondary care specialist in bowel management

Commissioners of NHS services may wish to refer to the Royal College of Surgeons *High Value Care Pathway for faecal incontinence* (2017)⁴ that provides a comprehensive patient care pathway to guide service provision. NB Providers of NHS services should note that this is a national pathway and not all interventions included may be commissioned locally.

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.
- Oxfordshire CCG clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/professional-resources/policies>

OPCS Procedure Codes

¹ This policy has been updated with new links to recent guidance; no other changes have been made.

² No changes were made to the policy following review by the TVPC.

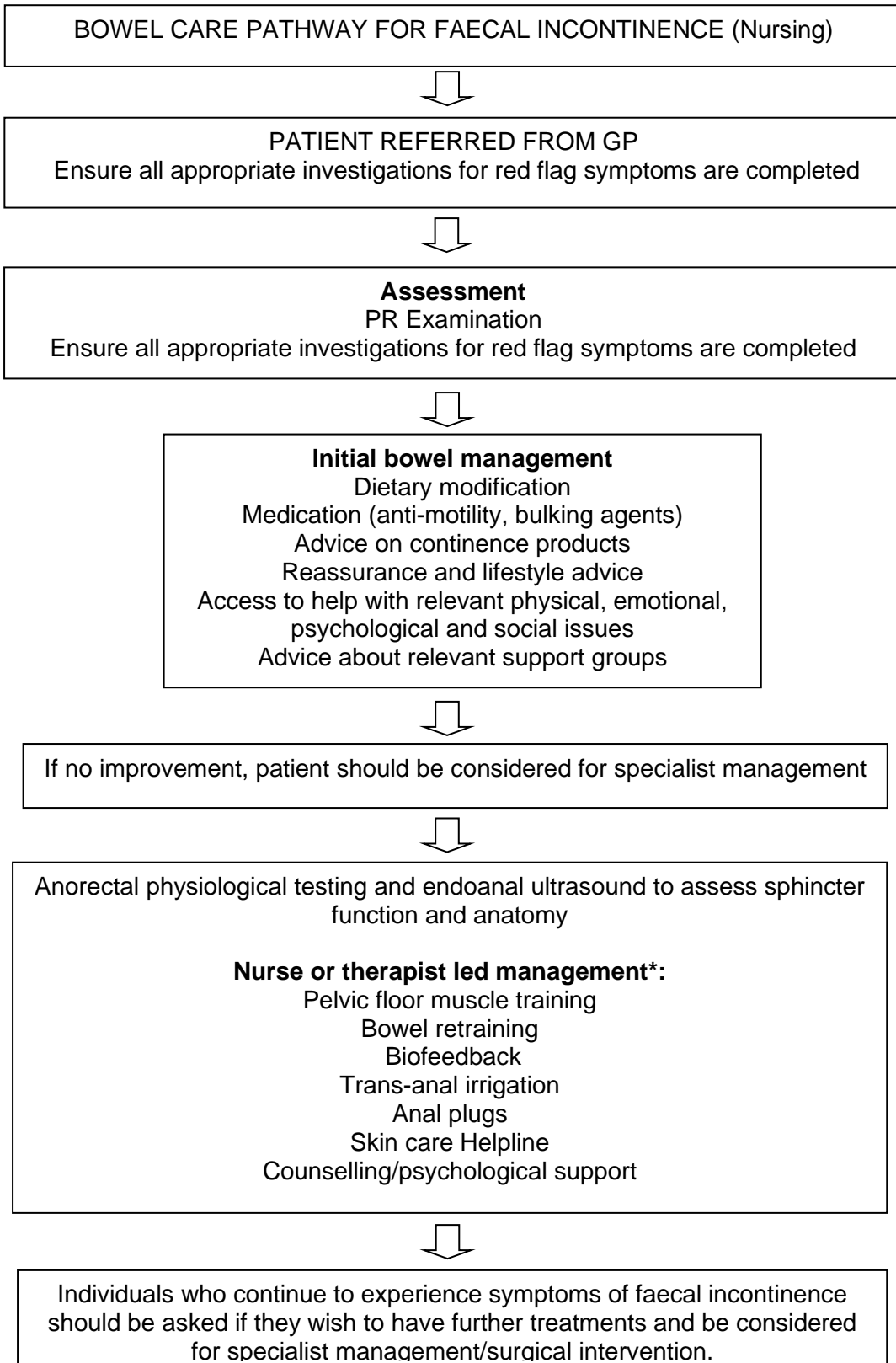
³ NICE MTG36 (2018) Peristeen transanal irrigation system for managing bowel dysfunction.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG36>

⁴ Royal College of Surgeons (2017) Commissioning Guide - *High Value Care Pathway for faecal incontinence*. <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/commissioning/commissioning-guides/topics/>

Appendix 1

The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) provides the following guidance on the care pathway and management strategies/treatments for faecal incontinence:



*Posterior tibial nerve stimulation and hypnotherapy (for patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome) are not available in Thames Valley services. Electrical stimulation is not currently available in Buckinghamshire HCNHST services.