

	ONE2ONE POLICY			
	Title	Bowel Management	Policy No	55
	Indicator	SM1 – High intensity daily personal activities	Review Date	

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets out One2One’s principles for providing bowel care to the consumers we support. Quality bowel care is about ensuring a person’s bowels are effectively managed in a safe, consistent, and hygienic manner that promotes a person’s overall health and well-being. All consumers we support deserve:

- appropriate advice
- monitoring
- support and intervention.

Above all, consumers must always be treated with dignity regarding a sensitive and important bodily function.

This policy has been framed around the NDIS Practice Standards and applies to all of One2One’s supports and services.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

If supporting a consumer with bowel care, staff should follow the consumers individual care plan for providing bowel management. Additionally, staff providing this support will participate in the appropriate training for that consumer.

When supporting a consumer with bowel care needs, One2One do not provide ‘bowel massage’, this is performed by a trained medical professional.

3. DEFINITIONS

Constipation is a condition in which bowel movements occur less often than usual or consist of hard, dry stools that are painful or difficult to pass.

Diarrhoea is defined as more than 300mls of loose watery stools in a 24-hour period.

Faecal incontinence is leakage from the bowel due to poor bowel control.

4. POLICY CONTENT

People with disability are more vulnerable to suffer from bowel dysfunction (a bowel that is not functioning correctly) for many reasons. Bowel function can also be affected by diabetes, obesity, heart problems and other conditions. The main types of bowel dysfunction are:

- constipation and poor bowel emptying
- diarrhoea

- faecal incontinence.

Seeking medical attention

Staff are encouraged to call a doctor or seek medical advice immediately if a consumer experiences any of the following:

- vomiting blood or faecal matter
- diarrhoea and/or vomiting that persists
- bleeding from the bowel
- fresh (red) or old (black) blood in faeces (note: a person may also have black faeces when taking iron supplements)
- unusual pain before, during or after a bowel action
- constipation not resolved by medication—bowels not opened for three days may indicate:
 - faecal impaction
 - bowel obstruction
 - paralytic ileus.

Bowel care guidelines

In accordance with a consumer's individual care plan, staff are encouraged to:

- use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- maintain good hand hygiene
- clean and wash surrounding peri anal skin/rectal region/moist areas of buttocks and groin with warm water and mild unscented soap, or as per individual care plan
- monitor for skin reaction inflammation, redness, breakdown, bleeding, or erythema
- ensure safe disposal of any waste.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Infection Control Policy
- Medication Management Policy
- Waste Management Policy

6. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis. However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy will be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.

Authorised: Director – One2One