

# Ontario 2020

## Fall Budget Submission

**57%**

of people who use uncoated catheters experience four or more urinary tract infections per year.

**86%**

say catheters are a huge financial burden due to a lack of public coverage.

**82%**

state that challenges on accessing the appropriate number of catheters impact their ability to be independent and self-reliant.

**90%**

agree that all users of catheters must have access to a specialty nurse for teaching and clinical support.

**78%**

support moving to a model where approved distributors can bill the government directly for products shipped to end users.



SPINAL CORD INJURY ONTARIO  
LÉSIONS MÉDULLAIRES ONTARIO

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# Ontario 2020 Fall Budget Submission

October 2020

Modernizing Ontario Public Coverage  
for Intermittent Catheters and Related  
Supplies

## ISSUE – Not about the government needing to spend more money

In Ontario, an estimated **33,000 individuals**<sup>1</sup> rely on intermittent catheterization. **Intermittent catheters** and supplies are needed by individuals to empty their bladder, typically **six times a day**.

All intermittent catheters are sold *sterile* and for *single use only*, but due to a lack of public funding, many people need to **reuse their catheters** to save money. **Reusing** single-use catheters poses both a safety risk with individuals suffering from **repeated urinary tract infections (UTIs)** and **potential liability risk** when healthcare professionals provide information about how to clean catheters as that is considered **off-label use** according to the Canadian Medical Protective Association<sup>2</sup>.

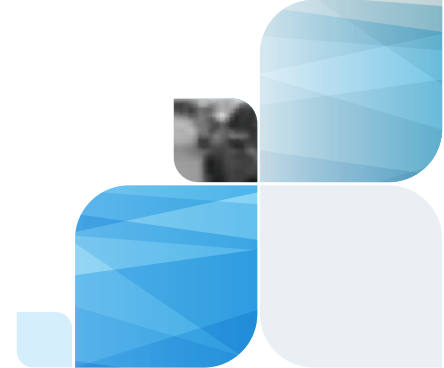
Provincial programs fund intermittent catheters across **multiple government departments**, are **cumbersome** to apply for, **expensive to administer** and **fail to take a value-based approach** for how government can improve upon the money they are already spending to provide better public coverage for these essential medical supplies.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct a review of all intermittent catheter government funding programs to find both system and cost efficiencies;
2. Commit to this work in the 2020 Ontario Fall Budget;
3. Ensure SCIO Community has a seat at the table to advance value-based procurement for intermittent catheters and supplies.

## Path To Modernize Ontario Public Coverage

The following provides the Government of Ontario with a **path forward for modernizing** the funding available for individuals needing to use intermittent catheters and related supplies. If implemented, government programs will reduce red tape, improve procurement practices, achieve greater value for the government and provide people with what they need; *simply* and *efficiently*.



### **Reducing Red Tape and Finding System Efficiencies**

1. Conduct an examination of the overlapping government programs for intermittent catheters to uncover hidden costs and opportunities to reduce red tape.
2. Prioritize modernizing a funding program for intermittent catheters so the government has a case example to demonstrate reducing red tape can lead to both system and financial efficiencies.
3. Leverage best practices from other jurisdictions to reduce red tape and find system efficiencies, e.g., Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living program in which individuals that qualify order from approved distributors and the distributors directly bill the province.

### **Optimizing Procurement to Achieve Greater Value**

4. Procure for a public coverage program that:
  - a. allows for consistency of product choice as individuals move through the system (e.g., acute, rehab, long term care, home).
  - b. Prevents individuals from needing to reuse single-use catheters.
5. Achieve value by factoring in costs beyond the catheter's price, e.g., UTIs are the largest cause of emergency department visits in the SCIO population; 3rd largest cause of death in the spinal cord injury population is bladder complications.

### **Providing Patient-Centred Care**

6. Ensure access to specialty nurses with knowledge, training and skills in bladder health and continence.
7. Increase access to specialist nurses to improve assessment and timely access to products and supplies by properly filling out and submitting forms.

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### **REFERENCES**

1. Health Quality Ontario. Intermittent catheters for chronic urinary retention: A health technology assessment. ON Health Technol Assess Ser. 2019;19(1):1-153. Retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6395058/>.
  2. Canadian Medical Protective Association. Risk management when reusing drugs or medical devices off-label. Retrieved from: <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/advice-publications/browse-articles/2012/risk-management-when-using-drugs-or-medical-devices-off-label>.
  3. Statistics on cover page were produced via stakeholder meetings and townhalls with the spinal cord injury community: <https://youtu.be/wliy3hKiK-o>
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