

Health Canada single-use medical devices



Taken from The Path to Modernize Ontario Public Coverage for Intermittent Catheters and Related Supplies. February 2021. Spinal Cord Injury Ontario

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An integral player in the ecosystem supporting those with SCI are the medical supply companies. Collectively, these industry members represented through Medtech Canada have developed a position paper calling for the Government of Ontario to address patient safety and potential liability risks associated with individuals for financial reasons having to reuse catheters designated as single-use devices.

The Medtech Canada position paper provides compelling evidence as to why the Government of Ontario should review public coverage of intermittent catheters, including:¹

- Single-use urinary intermittent catheters are designed, manufactured and approved for sale by Health Canada to be used only once on a single patient and then to be discarded;
- Potential liability risk with clinicians recommending the reuse of a single-use device particularly if promoting this off-label use poses a patient safety risk e.g., UTIs;
- UTIs not only have a negative impact on a patient's quality of life and associated complications, there is an increasing concern about UTIs and the link to the global crisis of antibiotic resistance;
- The Government of Ontario is advancing a bold initiative to modernize the supply chain which can be leveraged to optimize procurement practices, achieve greater value and improve care for patients.

Recommendations put forward for how the government can embark on this important work, aligned with both the physician and nursing guidelines include:

1. Funding should provide enough coverage to prevent patients from needing to reuse single-use catheters for financial reasons.
2. Patients should have a choice and be able

to continue to use a catheter that is working for them as they move through the system.

3. The public coverage model should be built collaboratively and according to updated Canadian guidelines.

Medtech Canada is the national association representing Canada's innovative medical technology industry. It represents approximately 100 medical technology companies, both Canadian owned and multinational. Medtech Canada works closely with federal and provincial governments, healthcare professionals, patients and other stakeholders to deliver a patient-centred, safe, accessible, innovative and sustainable universal healthcare system supported by medical technology.

References

1. Medtech Canada. (2020). Intermittent Urinary Catheterization Supplies – Recommendations to the Ontario Government. [Position Paper]. Retrieved from https://cdn.ymaws.com/medtechcanada.org/resource/resmgr/iuc_position_paper_on_recomm.pdf



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