

Body-worn absorbent product

Products intended to move moisture away from the skin and absorb and contain moderate or heavy urine loss or faeces. They are intended to protect the user's clothes and nearby environment, thereby preserving the user's dignity, comfort and quality of life, and if applicable, that of their caregiver(s), to promote social inclusion. They can be single-use or washable.

A body-worn absorbent product generally comprises:

- a top sheet, which lies against the wearer's skin; this is made from a water-permeable material that allows urine to pass readily through to the absorbent core beneath;
- an acquisition layer, which lies between the topsheet (above) and the absorbent core (below); this is designed to allow urine to enter the pad readily and spread over a large area of absorbent core. It does not absorb urine;
- an absorbent core, where urine is captured, spread and stored; this is made from material(s) that absorb(s) and spread(s) urine readily and retain(s) it under pressure;
- a back sheet, which is a layer of waterproof material that forms the outside surface of the pad, away from the wearer's body; this may be breathable;
- a fastening system (all-in-one and belted pads only) self-adhesive or hook-and-loop tabs to secure the products if a separate supporting product (e.g. underwear or fixation pants) is not used; pants/briefs (fixation underwear) can be used to secure single-use absorbent pads.

A washable body-worn absorbent product generally comprises:

- a washable waterproof-backed pad worn with fixation pants, or a waterproof-backed pull-on pad;
- a washable absorbent unbacked fabric pad (usually shaped) or a fabric square folded for use and opened out flat for washing and drying; these are typically made from cotton toweling, but they may also be made from other absorbent fabrics, such as bamboo, rayon or polyester fibres. It is worn with a separate waterproof component (usually a plastic pant (underwear) but can be a plastic sheet folded to fit and secured by tying) to prevent urine or faeces leaking on to clothing and bedding. The waterproof component can provide additional security.

A fixation device can be a safety pin or clip.

• Product Classification

- APL (WHO Assistive Product Priority List): 19 (Incontinence products, absorbent)
- ISO 9999:2022: 0930 (Assistive products for absorbing urine and faeces)

• Possible configuration variants

- Single-use pad for urine (rectangular or shaped pads held in place with user's own close-fitting underwear or with fixation underwear as first part of two-piece system).
- Male pad for urine (shaped pads designed to cover penis and scrotum and held in place with user's own closely fitting underwear or with fixation underwear, as first part of two-piece system).
- Single-use belted pad for absorbing urine or containing faeces (with built-in fastener system).
- Single-use pull-on pad for absorbing urine or containing faeces (resembles ordinary close-fitting underwear).
- Single-use wraparound pad for absorbing urine or containing faeces (with built-in fastener system).
- Washable incontinence pull-on pad (similar in appearance to standard underwear with integrated waterproof-backed absorbent pad).
- Washable absorbent pad (waterproof-backed pad worn with fixation pants).
- Washable wraparound pad (unbacked fabric pad, square or shaped, for urine or faeces, shaped to fit around the legs and fasten in the front or at the sides; held in place with integrated or separate fastening device eg pins or clips; worn with washable waterproof product, eg pants or underwear or folded waterproof sheet).

- Possible accessories or optional components
 - Washable fixation underwear (designed to hold pad in position as second part of two-piece system, that resembles male and female styles, adult and child sizes).
 - Washable fixation underwear made from stretchy fabric (designed to hold pad in position as second part of two-piece system, resembling regular male and female styles, in adult and child sizes, with a more generous design for comfortable fit and to secure the pad).
- Product goals

Activities or functions the product is mainly intended to support, according to WHO ICF Classification:

 - Toileting [d530].
- Indicated impairments

Difficulties the product is mainly intended to address, according to the WHO ICF Classification:

 - Urination functions [b620].
 - Defecation functions [b525].
- Contraindicated impairments

Difficulties for which the product may be inappropriate:
None specified.
- Indicated environments

Specific environments in which the product should be used:
None specified.
- Contraindicated environments

Environments in which the product may be inappropriate:
None specified.
- Other indicated factors

Other factors or situations the product is intended to address:
None specified.
- Other contraindicated factors

Other factors or situations in which the product may be inappropriate:
None specified.
- Points to be considered in product selection
None specified.
- Points to be considered in product fitting
None specified.
- Points to be considered in product use
None specified.
- Points to be considered in product maintenance / follow-up
None specified.
- Examples of products available on the market
 - Live product search in the EASTIN website <https://www.eastin.eu/en/searches/products/list?iso=0930>

Source

This Fact Sheet was compiled in 2021 by an international team of experts, to provide the initial knowledge base for a project ("An online system to assist the selection of assistive product") supported by the World Health Organization in 2020-2021 within the GATE Initiative (Global collaboration on Assistive Product). Fact Sheets were compiled for each of the 50 types of products included in the WHO APL (Assistive Product Priority List).

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The project led to a prototype online tool called ASPREX (ASsistive PRoduct EXplorer). At the end of the project, it was transferred to a WHO collaborating center (the Global Disability Hub in the UK), in view of possible future developments.