

<b>Policy 26</b>	<b>Complex Bowel Care</b>
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Record of policy development		
Version	Date approved	Date for review
2.0	June 2019 - CEO	June 2021

**Policy purpose:** COASTLINK strives to support a client where they are at risk of severe constipation or faecal incontinence, for example, CP GMFCS1 levels 3,4,5; spinal injuries; some ABI and where the bowel care plan involves non-routine treatment such as use of non-routine PRNs.

**Policy:**

Each client requiring Complex Bowel Care will receive appropriate support relevant and proportionate to their individual needs, and in line with an approved bowel care plan developed and overseen by a health practitioner. Risk is managed appropriately whilst ensuring all services are delivered.

**Relevant Standards**

**NSW Disability Service Standards:**

- |                              |                       |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Rights                    | 4. Service Access     |
| 2. Participation & inclusion | 5. Service Management |
| 3. Individual outcomes       |                       |

**NDIS Practice Standards:**

1. Rights and Responsibilities
2. Provision of Supports
3. Support Provision Environment
4. High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
5. Specialist Behaviour Support
6. Implementing Behaviour Support Plans
7. Early Childhood Supports

**Aged Care Quality Standards**

- |                                                   |                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Consumer dignity and choice                    | 5. Organisation's service environment |
| 2. Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers | 6. Feedback and complaints            |
| 3. Personal care and clinical care                | 7. Human resources                    |
| 4. Services and supports for daily living         | 8. Organisational governance          |

### Related Legislation & References

[National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Provider Registration and Practice Standards\) Rules 2018](#)

[National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Complaints Management and Resolution\) Rules 2018](#)

[National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#)

[National Disability Insurance Scheme Code of Conduct](#)

[NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

[Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988](#)

[Commonwealth Home Support Programme Guidelines](#)

[Aged Care Act 1997 \(Cth\), Schedule 2 User Rights Principles 2014. Charter of Rights and Responsibilities – Home Care](#)

[Better Practice Guide to Complaints Handling in Aged Care Services \(2013\)](#)

[Children and Young Persons \(Care and Protection\) Act 1998](#)

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018A00149>

[Guiding Principles for Medication Management in Community 2006 \(Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council\)](#)

### Related Procedures

<b>Documents/Forms</b>	

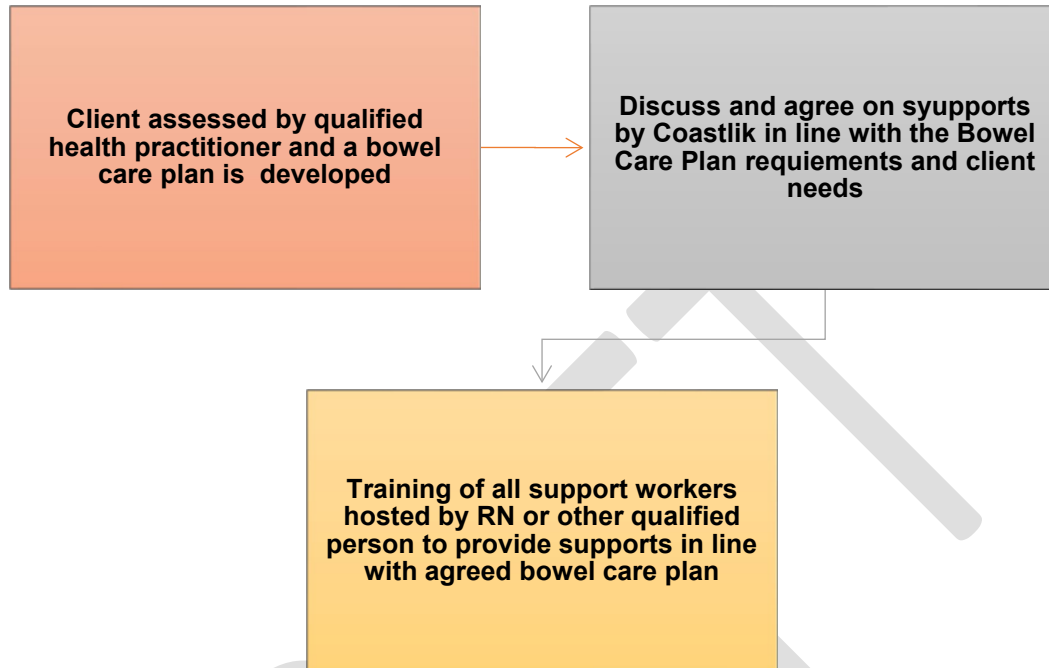
### Responsibilities and delegations

<b>This policy applies to:</b> Clients Employees/volunteers	<b>It will be distributed through:</b> Client handbook, Coastlink website, Coastlink brochures Employee/volunteer handbook, shared drive
<b>Policy approval</b>	CEO

### Definitions

Refer to Definitions list at front of Coastlink Policy and Procedure Manual

**COMPLEX BVOWEL CARE OVERVIEW**



## COMPLEX BOWEL CARE PROCEDURE

### 25.1 Procedures

Coastlink must receive a written bowel care plan that has been developed and is overseen by a health practitioner. The plan must include as a minimum:

- Information on normal stool appearance for the individual
- How to identify symptoms that require action
- Timing of intervention (how long before action is taken), and
- The action required.

Coastlink will adequately train and support workers and others involved in providing supports relevant to the individual's bowel care plan to:

- Follow personal hygiene and infection control procedures
- Recognise the intensely personal nature of this type of support and make sure of the participant's consent for the approach
- Observe and record change bowel habits
- Administer laxatives, enemas or suppositories according to procedure and identify when to seek health practitioner advice.
- High intensity support work includes administration of non-routine medication as required.

#### **Coastlink staff providing complex bowel care will have knowledge of:**

- Basic anatomy of the digestive system
- Importance of regular bowel care and understanding of stool characteristics indicating healthy bowel functioning and related signs and symptoms
- Basic understanding of related conditions including autonomic dysreflexia
- Symptoms/indications of need for intervention and when to refer to health practitioner e.g. overflow, impaction, perforation; infection, understanding of intervention options and techniques including
  - administering enemas and suppositories
  - digital stimulation, massage etc. and related guidelines and procedures
  - nutrition and hydration requirements.