

## BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC3a Anal Irrigation Systems for the Management of Faecal Incontinence/Constipation
Date of BOB ICB Adoption	March 2024

Anal irrigation, also known as transanal irrigation or rectal irrigation is a method of emptying the lower bowel using warm tap water<sup>1</sup>. Anal irrigation may be used in a number of clinical scenarios to facilitate bowel management and thus improve the quality of life of people with chronic faecal incontinence and/or constipation.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee considered the evidence for the use of anal irrigation systems and recommends their use only:

- for patients **who have exhausted all other conservative treatment options, appropriate to their needs;** (see Appendix 1)
- following a referral to a specialist continence nurse or therapist-led specialised bowel management service OR to a secondary care specialist in bowel management

Commissioners of NHS services may wish to refer to the Royal College of Surgeons *High Value Care Pathway for faecal incontinence (2017)*<sup>2</sup> that provides a comprehensive patient care pathway to guide service provision. NB Providers of NHS services should note that this is a national pathway and not all interventions included may be commissioned locally.

### OPCS Procedure Codes

H30.5 Irrigation of colon

#### NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's ICB where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy was developed and recommended by Thames Valley Priorities Committee which was the predecessor of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- BOBFPC clinical policies can be viewed at [Clinical Commissioning Policy Statements & IFRs | BOB ICB](#)

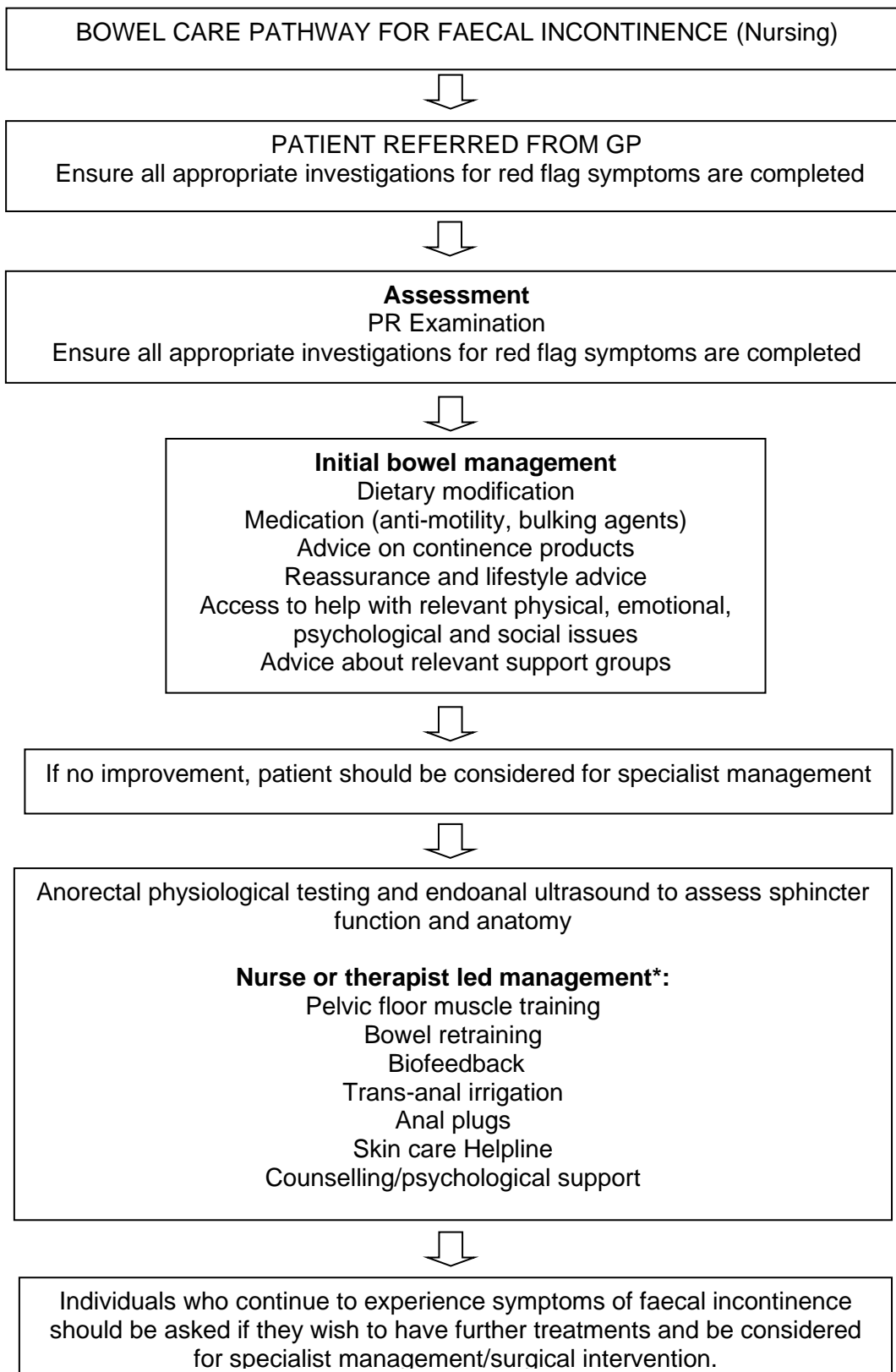
<sup>1</sup> NICE MTG36 (2018) Peristeen transanal irrigation system for managing bowel dysfunction. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG36>

<sup>2</sup> Royal College of Surgeons (2017) Commissioning Guide - *High Value Care Pathway for faecal incontinence*. <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/commissioning/commissioning-guides/topics/>

<b>Recommendation made by TVPC</b>	January 2014 Updated July 2019 May 2021
<b>Date adopted and issued by OCCG</b>	September 2021
<b>Date of BOB ICB adoption</b>	March 2024 – reformatted and rebadged only

## Appendix 1

The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) provides the following guidance on the care pathway and management strategies/treatments for faecal incontinence:



\*Posterior tibial nerve stimulation and hypnotherapy (for patients with Irritable Bowel Syndrome) are not available in Thames Valley services. Electrical stimulation is not currently available in Buckinghamshire HCNHST services.