

Taking care of continence patients during the COVID-19 pandemic

Hillery, S. (2020) Taking care of continence patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. **British Journal of Nursing**, 2020, Vol 29, No 22

COVID-19 has brought about unprecedented challenges to healthcare services in the UK.

Priority has been given to those with complications of the virus and those requiring cancer services. Bladder symptoms continue to be a reality for those who feel unable to seek help. Many people are reluctant to access healthcare services, some through fear of contracting the virus, or to save 'being a bother' to already busy services.

This article provides an overview of common continence issues to support any clinician who may meet people experiencing bladder symptoms. It highlights that community-based continence services may not have the capacity to meet the needs of all patients. Through simple measures, other healthcare professionals are able to provide initial advice as well as suggest conservative self-care measures that can reduce severity of symptoms.

If you would like further information and resources for either yourself, your colleagues or your patients, Coloplast have created a resource which can be accessed [here](#).

Areas for reflection

- How have continence patients been managed in your area over the last 12 months?
- Has the pandemic highlighted any new pathways for care that may be an improvement on pre-pandemic times?
- How can we increase patient confidence in returning to seek help for continence issues?

