

# Bathing Cushion

## Clinical Business Case

The following clinical business case provides information and clinical reasoning examples, to assist the health or social care professional to support a request for funding of non-contract equipment.



## What are the needs, goals or outcomes for the service user?

- To enable independent, safe and dignified access to bathing facility to maintain personal hygiene.
- To increase confidence when carrying out self-care.
- To enable the service user to soak in the bath for pain relief.
- To support informal carer.
- To avoid the need for a new care package or increase in existing package.

## What options have been explored or considered?

*Bath board and seat not suitable:*

- As the service user requires maximum immersion in water when in the bath.
- As the service user has weakness in upper limbs/ back pain/ breathing difficulties resulting in difficulty lowering and raising him/her self from bath seat to board and vice versa.
- Due to the type of bath or lack of rim to support the board.

*Bath lift not suitable as:*

- It takes up space within the bath and does not allow the service user to be fully covered in water.
- It is too heavy to be regularly moved so that others can use the bath.
- The type of bath is too narrow or short and therefore not enough space for the suckers to sit squarely in the bath.

## Equipment Recommended

*Bathing Cushion*

- The cushion deflates allowing the user to lie flat in the bath, fully covered in water so benefiting from the therapeutic properties of bathing.
- Can be removed from the bath easily when not in use so enabling a more flexible environment for shared bathrooms.

## What are the benefits of provision to the service user and /or carer?

- Improve health and well-being by enabling the service user to:
  - ◊ Access a bathing facility in an independent, safe and dignified manner.
  - ◊ Maintain personal hygiene.
  - ◊ Carry out self-care activities with more confidence.
  - ◊ Maintain control of their own personal care.
- The service user will benefit from immersion in water to reduce pain.
- Reduces risk of falls when transferring in/out of bath, which in turn could save cost associated with hospital admission.
- Minimises the risk of musculoskeletal injury to the formal or informal carer when providing assistance with bath transfer.
- Risk to carer/other family members will be reduced as the equipment is lightweight, portable and easily removed from the bath. This is important as there may be a need to regularly remove the equipment for cleaning or for others to use the bath.
- Prevent or reduce need for care and support.
  - National average cost of care for personal activities- £15.00 per hour. Cost savings can be calculated from this. E.g. Daily all over assisted wash required, saving ½ hour per day, seven days per week = £52.50 per week (£2,730 per year).
- Avoid the need for adaptations to property and their associated costs where no other solution is possible.