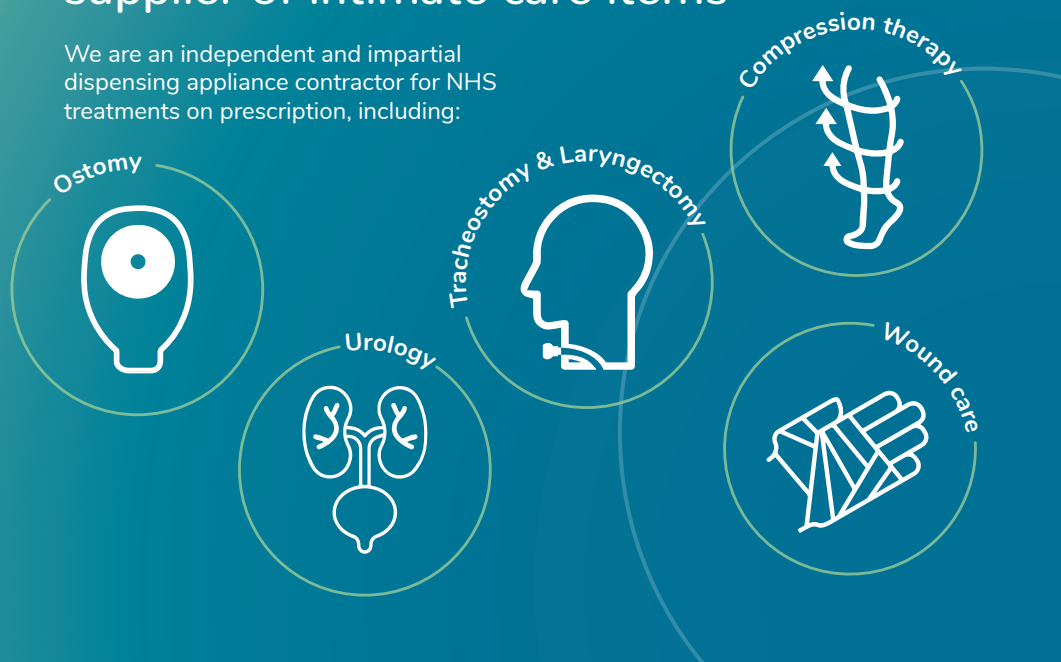


# Patient Choice — an NHS approved supplier of intimate care items

We are an independent and impartial dispensing appliance contractor for NHS treatments on prescription, including:



We can provide free and reliable home delivery through [patientchoicedelivery.co.uk](http://patientchoicedelivery.co.uk)

For further assistance, or advice - contact our friendly team.

Email: [admin@patientchoice.net](mailto:admin@patientchoice.net)

Call: 0800 862 0686

[patientchoice.net](http://patientchoice.net)

All information correct at time of printing. It is not, and should not be taken as, legal advice. You should not rely on, or take or fail to take any action based upon this information.



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patientchoice

Powering better prescription delivery

NHS

Providing NHS services

## Know your rights as an NHS patient in Northern Ireland with intimate health needs



If you're an NHS patient in Northern Ireland, you have important rights. This leaflet has been prepared specifically for patients with intimate health needs to help you get the best possible care and support.

You should have the following entitlements:

- To get the information you need to make informed choices about your healthcare.
- To be involved in decisions regarding your own care and treatment.
- To have your needs considered in the NHS services you receive.

**This document outlines your healthcare rights. You may want to seek professional advice on any area that affects you.**

## Dealing with doctors and clinicians

As well as asking doctors what products are available for your condition, you can ask them what different products could help you manage it. You can also ask for a specific product to be prescribed – and if they say no, you can also ask for an explanation. You can also ask whether you're entitled to prescriptions for free.

**+** You have the right to information about the treatment options available to you, what they involve and their risks and benefits.

**+** You have the right to ask why your local Health and Social Care Trust has decided not to fund a particular product.

**+** You have the right to be involved in decisions about your treatment/care and should be offered the opportunity to participate.



## Dealing with pharmacies and DACs

You can ask your dispenser whether there are alternative products, or if there are supplementary items to accompany a product. You can ask them for advice around how to manage your condition, how to look after products, and even for a personalised online care plan.

**+** You have the right to expect pharmacists and dispensers to provide appropriate advice and fulfil orders for any product approved for use by Health and Social Care Services. They (with your permission) should provide details of two other suppliers who may be able to fulfil an order if they are unable to. Dispensers should also be able to provide appropriate advice about the products they dispense, such as how to use, clean and care for them. They may also be able to offer you online support to help you manage your condition, for example by preparing you a personalised web-based care plan.

**+** You have the right to decide where/how you get your prescription supplies dispensed – although health boards may have different rules on how they are provided. A GP will be able to advise on this.

You can obtain prescription supplies in different ways:

- Let the dispensing company (sometimes called DACs, such as Patient Choice) handle everything. You place an order with them and they will contact your GP to get the prescription.
- Place an order with a dispensing company and then send them your prescription yourself.

- Your GP can send the prescription to your dispensing company of choice. Some GP practices also have a dispensing arm that may be able to provide your appliance.
- Take your prescription to a local pharmacy.

**+** You have the right to expect pharmacies and appliance dispensers (sometimes known as DACs) to provide supplementary items (such as disposable wipes and disposal bags) when fulfilling a prescription for incontinence, stoma, catheter, erectile dysfunction, wound drainage and anal irrigation appliances. You may want to ask your GP if these should come with your prescription or if you should order them yourself.

**+** You have the right to have supplies delivered discreetly to your home. The packaging and method of delivering continence, stoma, catheter, erectile dysfunction, wound drainage and anal irrigation appliances must not indicate the nature of what is being delivered.

**+** You have the right to receive urgent supplies of medical products from a pharmacy or supplier without a prescription if your doctor (or another health professional who can make prescriptions) asks them to do so. This will require your doctor (or the other prescriber) to agree to provide a prescription within 72 hours.