

# Fact Sheet

## Queensland Spinal Cord Injuries Service

### SPINAL INJURIES UNIT

Ph: 3176 2215  
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### OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT

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Postal and Location  
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### TRANSITIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

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### SPINAL OUTREACH TEAM

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## Accessing Enemas and Suppositories in the Community

The type of funding you are utilising following your Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) will influence your pathway options to access enemas in the community. Please refer to the relevant funding source below for more information, or contact your relevant funding co-ordinator:

### National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS):

- Enemas/suppositories are considered a medication by the NDIS and therefore **not funded**
- If you purchase them on your continence account, you may be asked to refund the cost price if you are audited by the NDIS
- You will need to purchase these items from either one of the continence companies or at a pharmacy
- You may be eligible for some price reduction with a prescription by your Doctor (see following information) and then purchase through a pharmacy.

### National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIISQ) or Similar State Schemes (e.g., iCare, etc):

- NIISQ may fund the cost of your enemas/suppositories as part of your injury management
- They can be added to your continence product list, with a bulk supply for 3 months provided at a time, or alternatively, you could obtain them through your NIISQ funded pharmacy account
- Any relevant reductions in pricing should be utilised to decrease the cost to NIISQ (i.e., prescription through GP for supply at pharmacy – see following information)

### My Aged Care (MAC):

- No specific funding provided – you will need to purchase your enemas/suppositories either at your pharmacy or via a continence supply company.
- You may be able to obtain a prescription from your GP to reduce the cost of these items (see following information) when purchasing at your pharmacy

### Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA):

- Prescriptions may be available via your GP under the Repatriation Benefit Scheme for enemas/suppositories depending on your individual circumstances.  
[Concessional Medicines under the RPBS](#)

### Self-Funded:

- You may be able to obtain a script to reduce the cost of enemas/suppositories (see following) when purchasing at your pharmacy

## Enema Prescription

Most of the types of enemas/suppositories used in Spinal Cord Injury bowel management are **not scheduled medications** – this means that a script is not required for purchase and they can be bought “over the counter”.

The pathway for people with Spinal Cord Injury to access cheaper enemas or suppositories requires a visit to your GP to obtain a prescription subsidized by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as a Restricted Benefit.

- The current brand of enema available through the PBS for prescription is **MICOLETTE enemas**, which are the equivalent of Microlax enemas that you may be more familiar with or that are more readily available on pharmacy shelves.



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[www.health.qld.gov.au/gscis](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/gscis)

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- Prescriptions for Bisacodyl suppositories are also available, however **the subsidy for Bisacodyl enemas (eg Bisalax) was discontinued in 2024**. These may still be purchased over the counter at retail pricing only (eg Bisalax, Toilax)
- The prescription will reduce the price to standard PBS medication prices – this is a significant saving if you hold a **Pension Card or Health Care Card**. [Services Australia Payment and Service Finder](#)
- If you do not hold a Pension/Health Care Card the prescription may not reduce the price of the enemas significantly – although it will contribute towards your PBS Safety Net [Information on the PBS Safety Net](#)

### Information for GP Scripting:

To access General PBS subsidized enemas/suppositories, please prescribe:

#### **Micolette Enemas**

CITRIC ACID + LAURYL SULFOACETATE SODIUM + SORBITOL

Sodium citrate dihydrate 450mg/5ml + lauryl sulfoacetate sodium 45mg/5ml + sorbitol 3.123g/5ml enema, 12 x 5ml

#### **Restricted Benefit – 2091C** (Maximum 2 boxes, 2 repeats)

Clinical Criteria: paraplegic or quadriplegic or have severe neurogenic impairment of bowel function

or

#### **Restricted Benefit – 145349Y** (Maximum 4 boxes, 2 repeats)

Clinical Criteria – The condition must be stable for the prescriber to consider the listed maximum quantity of this medicine suitable for this patient, AND Patient must be paraplegic or quadriplegic and have severe neurogenic impairment of the bowel

#### **Petrus Bisacodyl Suppositories**

BISACODYL

Bisacodyl 10mg suppository, 12

#### **Restricted Benefit – 1258F** (3 boxes, 4 repeats)

Clinical Criteria: paraplegic or quadriplegic or have severe neurogenic impairment of bowel function

or

#### **Restricted Benefit - 14305X** (6 boxes, 4 repeats)

Clinical Criteria: The condition must be stable for the prescriber to consider the listed maximum quantity of this medicine suitable for this patient AND Patient must be paraplegic or quadriplegic or have severe neurogenic impairment of bowel function.

The information contained within this guide was correct at time of publication and provided for general education purposes only. It does not replace the need to seek appropriate professional assistance for specific individual cases or consultation with applicable funding authorities

**Reviewed October 2024**  
**Next Review Due October 2026**



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