Quality Standards of Disposable Adult Absorbent Products

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Quality Performance Standards
Disposable Adult Absorbent Products

- National Need for Regulation
- NAFC Intervention
- Quality Objectives
- Total Quality Standards
- Demo of Specific Quality Tests
- Next Steps
Core Issue Around Incontinence Management

Heads of state departments of health and human services were overwhelmed by the demand for and the cost of absorbent products for Medicaid recipients receiving waivers from state-funded nursing home beds to be cared for at home by family members.

Health Conditions
Skin breakdown and other skin health concerns

Aggravating Cause
Wide variance in quality and performance of absorbent incontinence products

Not all products are created equal
Need for Self Regulation

NAFC Intervention

In late 2010, the National Association For Continence (NAFC) launched an initiative to provide Quality Performance Standards of Disposable Adult Absorbent Products.

The NAFC Council Membership

The NAFC’s health educator and executive director convened cross-sector representation to define the standard quality measures:

- State administrative management in the Medicaid programs of key states
  - California, Massachusetts, Minnesota, South Carolina, & Texas

- Technical heads of the largest incontinence manufacturers in the industry
  - Attends/Domtar, First Quality, Kimberly Clark, Medline, Principle Business Enterprises, SCA.

- The president of the nonwovens trade association
- The former president of the Wound, Ostomy Nurses Association (WOCN)
- A nursing school professor at Emory University
- A representative of the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA).
NAFC Objectives

1. To create a single, national set of quality standards for adult absorbent products, reducing redundancy and inconsistencies among individual states

2. To clarify and communicate absorbent product characteristics needed by frail, elderly users and the permanently disabled (including older children and young adults) who are incontinent

3. To optimize through higher performance the value in absorbent product purchases in all states

4. To reduce opportunities for fraud, waste, and abuse and thereby reduce the overall cost of incontinence supplies funded by Medicaid

5. To improve quality of care for program participants and lower risks of adverse events such as skin breakdown from the use of inferior or inappropriately selected products

6. To establish a benchmark for continuous quality improvement over time
The Quality Standards
For Disposable Adult Absorbent Products

Comprehensive Performance Measures

**Functional Protection**
1. RATE OF ACQUISITION (ROA)
2. REWET RATE
3. RETENTION CAPACITY
4. ELASTIC TENSION

**Personalization**
5. RANGE OF SIZING OPTIONS
6. RANGE OF ABSORBENCIES

**Sensory Features**
7. SAFETY
8. CLOSURE SYSTEM
9. BREATHABILITY

**The Total Picture**
10. INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS

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care is in the details.™
RATE OF ACQUISITION (ROA): INDA Standard Test: WSP 070.9 R1 (12)

A measure of the speed at which urine is wicked, or drawn away, from the skin by an absorbent product being worn.

Recommended maximums are as follows:
(for medium and larger size products)

**Briefs (200 cc/0.9% Saline Solution)**
- Standard Briefs < 60 seconds
- Premium Briefs < 50 seconds

**Underwear (100 cc/0.9% Saline Solution)**
- Standard Underwear < 45 seconds
- Premium Underwear < 35 seconds
NAFC Quality Measures - ROA
REWET RATE: INDA Standard Test: WSP 070.9 R1 (12)
A measure of a product’s ability to withstand multiple incontinent episodes between changes.

Recommended ceilings are as follows (medium and larger product):

**Light/Moderate Incontinence:**
Standard Briefs ≤ 2.0 grams
Standard Underwear ≤ 1.0 grams

**Heavy/Severe Incontinence:**
Premium Briefs ≤ 1.0 grams
Premium Underwear ≤ 0.5 grams
NAFC Quality Measures

RETENTION CAPACITY: INDA Standard Test: WSP 070.10 R1 (12)

A measure of a product’s capacity to hold fluid without leaking and rewetting the skin.

Recommended minimums are as follows (medium and larger size product):

**Light/Moderate incontinence:**
Standard Underwear $\geq$ 250 grams
Premium Underwear $\geq$ 400 grams

**Moderate/Severe incontinence:**
Standard Briefs $\geq$ 250 grams
Premium Briefs $\geq$ 400 grams
ELASTIC TENSION: NAFC Standard Test Method (NAFC.org)

Measurement of product elasticity by adding significant weight on the fabric enough to measure whether the product has 100% stretch.

Recommended minimums are as follows

100% stretch = elasticity
BREATHABILITY: INDA Standard Test: WSP 070.1 R3 (12)

A minimum air flow in side “wings” of the product sufficient to release trapped body heat/gaseous body perspiration in the pelvic region.

A minimum value of > 100 cfm using the Frasier Air Permeability Test is recommended.
NAFC Quality Measures – Air Permeability
Continence Care Management

High Quality Functional Product Attributes

Clinical Improvement of Health Outcomes

Effective Cost Management of Quality of Care

NAFC & Industry-Wide Cooperation
1. Generated several rounds of publicity

- Publishing the standards themselves in the September 2013 issue of Ostomy Wound Management
- Circulating press releases:
- Standards were accepted as an abstract and poster at the recent 2013 International Continence Society meeting in Barcelona

2. Featuring highlights/recommendations in the 2013 Compendium of Best Practices

- Distributed to all state Medicaid directors nationwide.

3. Speaking at national and international meetings of technical directors

- Specifically the nonwovens industry, etc. throughout 2013. Nancy Muller, PhD spoke at the INDA’s VISION® Consumer Products Conference in January; we have been invited to speak again and give an update at the January 2014 meeting. Jim Minetola (First Quality) is presenting at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers: 'Incontinence: The Engineering Challenge IX in November.
# Summary of Progress to Date on Absorbent Standards for Adult Incontinence

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<th>4. Sharing testing standards and methodologies</th>
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<td>With all major U.S. testing laboratories</td>
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<th>5. Promoting the standards through similar international organizations</th>
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<td>Through the <a href="https://www.wfpip.org">World Federation of Incontinent Patients</a>, encouraging full/partial adoption in other countries.</td>
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<th>6. Encouraging state representatives</th>
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<td>(California and Minnesota specifically) on the Council to publish results of their own implementations.</td>
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<th>7. Development of NAFC on the Seal of Quality Approval is</th>
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<td>Another effort in support of promoting adoption and recognition of the standards.</td>
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<th>8. Send a mailing to all 50 states and their Medicaid Offices</th>
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<td>Include their respective heads of health departments. We have received acknowledgements and praise for the research and development of the standards from Maryland, Hawaii, Indiana, and New York.</td>
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• **Next Steps**
  - Publication of Standards
  - Adoption of Standards
  - Define Certification Program
    - Testing Protocols
    - Standards Adherence
    - Product Modification
    - New Product Evaluation
  - Create R&D Resource Center