



Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

Table 13 – Continence Function

Introduction to Table 13

- Table 13 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment related to incontinence of the bladder or bowel.
- The diagnosis of the condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a report from the person's treating doctor;
 - a report from a medical specialist, particularly in cases of moderate or severe incontinence, (e.g. urogynaecologist, gynaecologist, urologist, gastroenterologist) confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with incontinence (e.g. some gynaecological conditions, prostate enlargement or malignancy, gastrointestinal conditions, incontinence resulting from paraplegia, spina bifida, neurodegenerative conditions or severe intellectual disability);
 - assessments and reports from practitioners specialising in the treatment and management of incontinence (e.g. urologists, urogynaecologists, continence nurse advisors, continence physiotherapists).
- To avoid doubt, for descriptors in this Table relating to a person's symptoms affecting co-workers, a descriptor can apply even if the person does not work (that is, where the descriptor is likely to apply if the person did work).

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact on maintaining continence of the bladder and bowel.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) is always continent of the bladder and bowel; and (b) does not have a stoma (e.g. colostomy, ileostomy) or use a catheter or other collection device to manage continence.

5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact on maintaining continence of the bladder or bowel.</i></p> <p>(1) At least one of the following ((a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (f)) applies:</p> <p><i>Bladder</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has minor leakage from the bladder (e.g. a small amount of urine when coughing or sneezing) at least once a day but not every hour; (b) the person has urgency (e.g. has to get to a toilet very quickly and has difficulty 'holding on' to urine) or has occasional (at least weekly) loss of control of the bladder; (c) the person has difficulty passing urine (e.g. has to strain or has restricted flow of urine or has difficulty emptying the bladder); <p><i>Bowel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (d) the person has minor leakage from the bowel (e.g. enough faecal matter to soil underwear but not outer clothes) more than once a week but not every day; (e) the person has urgency or occasional (at least monthly) loss of control of bowel; <p><i>Continence aids</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (f) the person has a stoma, or uses a catheter or other collection device to manage their continence independently without any difficulties and does not need any assistance.
10	<p><i>There is a moderate functional impact on maintaining continence of the bladder or bowel.</i></p> <p>(1) At least (2), (3) or (4) applies.</p> <p><i>Bladder</i></p> <p>(2) The person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has minor leakage from the bladder (e.g. a small amount of urine when coughing or sneezing) several times each day; and (b) in respect of continence of the bladder has difficulties that result in interruption to tasks, work or training on most days. <p><i>Bowel</i></p> <p>(3) The person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has major leakage from the bowel (e.g. enough faecal matter to fully soil underwear and stain outer clothes if a continence pad is not worn) in most weeks; and (b) in respect of continence of the bowel has difficulties that result in interruption to tasks, work or training on most days. <p><i>Continence aids</i></p> <p>(4) The person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has a stoma, or uses a catheter or other collection device to manage their continence independently but requires frequent bag or catheter changes, or has frequent equipment failure; and (b) in respect of continence aids has difficulties that result in interruption to tasks, work or training on most days.

20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact on maintaining continence of the bladder or bowel.</i></p> <p>(1) At least (2), (3) or (4) applies.</p> <p><i>Bladder</i></p> <p>(2) In respect of continence of the bladder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's condition may affect the comfort or attention of co-workers; or (b) the person has continual dribbling of urine throughout the day; or (c) the person has major leakage from the bladder (e.g. a large amount of urine – enough to soak through a prescribed continence pad and clothes) at least every day but not every hour. <p><i>Bowel</i></p> <p>(3) In respect of continence of the bowel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's condition may affect the comfort or attention of co-workers; or (b) the person has minor leakage from the bowel (e.g. enough faecal matter to soil underwear or continence pad but not outer clothes) every day; or (c) the person has major leakage from the bowel (e.g. enough faecal matter to fully soil underwear or a continence pad) at least weekly. <p><i>Continence aids</i></p> <p>(4) In respect of continence aids:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person's condition may affect the comfort or attention of co-workers; or (b) the person has a stoma, or uses a catheter or other collection device to manage their continence and needs some assistance from another person to manage the continence aid; or (c) the person wears continence pads and needs some assistance to change these during the day.
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact. The person is completely unable to maintain continence of the bladder or bowel.</i></p> <p>(1) The nature of the person's condition is likely to affect co-workers adversely and at least (2), (3) or (4) applies.</p> <p><i>Bladder</i></p> <p>(2) In respect of continence of the bladder the person has no control of bladder emptying and is always incontinent of urine.</p> <p><i>Bowel</i></p> <p>(3) In respect of continence of the bowel the person has no control of bowel emptying and is always incontinent of faeces.</p> <p><i>Continence aids</i></p> <p>(4) In respect of continence aids at least one of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the person has a stoma, or uses a catheter or other collection device to manage their continence and needs complete assistance from another person to manage this; or (b) the person wears continence pads and needs complete assistance to change these during the day.