

Questions to Ask Before Selecting Continence Equipment



Why the Right Questions Matter

Continence equipment decisions are often made quickly, during a hospital discharge, after a fall, or when carer burden reaches breaking point. Rushed choices frequently lead to equipment that is unused, unsuitable or has to be replaced within months. Asking the right questions upfront saves money, protects skin and preserves dignity.

1. Questions About the Person

- **What is their current mobility level:** ambulant, transfer assisted, or bed bound?
- Is there existing skin breakdown, IAD or pressure injury history?
- What is their cognitive status and ability to cooperate with equipment?
- Are there progressive conditions (Parkinson's, MND, dementia) likely to change needs?
- What are their personal preferences around dignity, privacy and independence?

2. Questions About the Care Environment

- How many carers are available, and for how many hours per day?
- Is manual handling already a known risk or injury source?
- **What is the night time coverage:** carer, family, or nothing?
- Are consumables (pads, wipes, linen) already straining the budget?
- Is the physical space suitable, including bathroom access, power, drainage and bed height?

3. Questions About the Product and Supplier

- Is there a trial period so we can evaluate before committing?
- What clinical evidence supports the product's outcomes?
- What ongoing support (training, servicing, troubleshooting) is included?
- Are cleaning, maintenance and consumables realistic for our setting?
- What funding pathways (NDIS, Home Care Package, aged care procurement) are supported?

Green Flags, Signs of a Good Fit

- Supplier offers a trial before purchase
- Clear published clinical evidence
- Ongoing training and technical support
- Adaptable as care needs progress

Red Flags, Proceed with Caution

- Pressure to buy without assessment
- No trial or return option
- Vague or absent evidence base
- Support ends at delivery

WeissenBlu Educational Note: Every WeissenBlu enquiry includes a free clinical assessment and a 2 week trial on both rental and purchase pathways, so families and clinicians can decide with confidence. [weissenblu.com.au](https://www.weissenblu.com.au)