



Australian Council of Stoma Associations Inc **Charter of Responsible Use**

As a stakeholder in the Stoma Appliance Scheme, the Australian Council of Stoma Associations (ACSA) is committed to working towards the long term sustainability of the scheme for the benefit of current and future Australians who require Commonwealth Government subsidised stoma products to assist in the management of their stoma.

The objective of this Charter is to recognise the role that all Australian registrants of the Stoma Appliance Scheme play in the sustainability of the scheme and to define the principles of responsible use promoted by ACSA to all users of scheme listed products.

Principle 1: Only order those products which have been identified through careful review of personal use as being required and only order in quantities commensurate to individual use.

Rationale: Many of the monthly quantity allowances of scheme listed products are very generous and are in excess of a normal usage requirements. Placing an order each month for the maximum monthly quantity of every product used in stoma management could result in product excess and wastage as unused product reaches its “best before” date.

Principle 2: Keep an adequate but not excessive stock reserve on hand

Rationale: 1 to 2 months of emergency reserve is an adequate supply to be kept on hand. A reserve supply equal to more than 2 month standard supply is excessive (with the exception of holiday supply)

Principle 3: Only order ancillary items following referral by a qualified Stomal Therapy Nurse or registered Medical Practitioner

Rationale: Not every product listed on the Stoma Appliance Scheme is suitable for use by all persons and some products may compromise the effectiveness of others. The advice of your Stomal Therapy Nurse or registered Medical Practitioner is essential before adding additional products to your stoma care regime.

Principle 4: Only use products for the purpose of managing and maintaining your stoma

Rationale: Using products for a purpose other than that intended can result in product churn (eg: using a colostomy pouch to cover an ileostomy, using skin conditioning cream for a purpose other than stoma management)

Principle 5: Don't expect the taxpayer to fund personal choice

Rationale: An “Application for Additional Stoma Supply” (Medicare 4050) request is to be used when a Stomal Therapy Nurse or registered Medical Practitioner has assessed (following review) that a genuine need exists for a quantity of supplies which exceed the standard allowance for that product. Additional supplies required for any other reason may be purchased through an association.