

Speech and language therapy service

Consent to register with a third party supplier for stoma products

Introduction

After laryngectomy surgery, you will need an on-going supply of specialist products to care for your neck stoma. The speech and language therapist will advise you on which products you need. Products are supplied on prescription free of charge to NHS patients and can be supplied by either a pharmacy, your GP or a dispensing appliance contractor.

What is a dispensing appliance contractor (DAC)?

A DAC is a company registered with the NHS that provides a prescription service to patients. Some DACs specialise in neck stoma products and are therefore more familiar with the products you need than your local pharmacy or GP. For your convenience and independence, we recommend you register with a DAC to receive your supplies. The DAC may use your details to contact you or send you information about new products or services from time to time.

How do I organise my stoma prescription through a DAC?

After you have placed your order with the DAC, they will organise a prescription directly with your GP on your behalf. Once the GP has signed the prescription, the DAC will deliver the products to your home free of charge. This is called a third party prescription request and means that you **do not have to go to your GP or pharmacy when you need supplies**. However, DACs can only deliver products that are on prescription and have been signed off by your GP.

There are two main DACs for laryngectomy stoma products – Countrywide Supplies Ltd. and Fittleworth. As well as a prescription and home delivery service, some DACs offer additional services such as a home visit service by one of their specialist nurses. Your speech and language therapist will give you information and help you choose which DAC to register with.

Will my stoma prescription always stay the same?

The amount of products you need and how often you will need to place an order may change over time. Your speech and language therapist will help you with this. In the first few months after surgery, it is common for your stoma prescription to change depending on your needs. In the long-term, your prescription will become more stable as you find the products that suit you best.

From time to time, your speech and language therapist may advise you to try a different stoma product than your usual one. **If you see a product you would like to try in the catalogue, contact your speech and language therapist first to check that it is suitable for you.** Any changes to your usual stoma products will require a new prescription.

What should I remember when using a DAC?

When using a DAC, it is important to order responsibly. Most stoma products have a recommended shelf life and some may be affected by changes in temperature. To reduce waste and cost to the NHS, avoid ordering in bulk as you may end up with too many products, items that have gone past their end date, or products that you no longer use. DACs keep a good stock of most stoma items and are able to deliver within a few days once your GP has signed the prescription.

Consent

Please tick ✓ the following statements if you agree:

	I confirm that the choice of dispensing appliance contractor has been explained to me.
	I give my permission for the speech and language therapy team to register me with:
	Countrywide Supplies Ltd.
	Fittleworth
	I understand that the dispensing appliance contractor may contact me directly from time to time to offer new products or services. I understand that I should contact my speech and language therapist before making any changes to my usual stoma prescription.
	I understand that Countrywide Supplies Ltd. offer a nursing service to people at home. I am happy to be contacted directly by Countrywide for this purpose.
	I do not wish to be contacted directly by a dispensing appliance contractor.
	I do not wish to be registered with a dispensing appliance contractor.

Your name:	
Your hospital number:	
Date:	
Speech and language therapist:	