

Waiting Is the Hardest Part

Why delays in continence care matter and how automated toileting support can help people who remain in bed.

FEBRUARY 2023



News stories, movies, trade shows, and interviews often make the future look advanced, convenient, and full of possibilities. Yet care routines can remain tied to older methods because changing established practice can be difficult, even for compelling reasons.

Senior care often includes periods when a resident must wait for a nurse or caregiver to respond. For a person who is bedbound or living with incontinence, delays in changing adult briefs can contribute to prolonged moisture exposure, discomfort, and skin complications. They may also increase the risk of problems such as dermatitis associated with incontinence and urinary tract infection.

The challenge is not a lack of commitment

Nurses and caregivers work hard to prevent these outcomes. Staffing shortages, competing patient needs, overnight schedules, limited caregiving hours and the cost of continuous care can nevertheless make timely toileting and hygiene support difficult.

Care plans commonly call for regular checks and prompt perineal cleansing whenever needed. In daily practice, however, a resident may still spend extended periods waiting for a change and washing. That is not what caregivers want for their patients, what families want for their loved ones, or what residents want for themselves.

Waiting is not simply an inconvenience. For someone who cannot toilet independently, the wait can affect comfort, sleep, dignity and skin health.

What monitoring can reveal

One overnight monitoring example described to COHealth involved a bedbound patient whose briefs were routinely changed a few times during the night. Monitoring recorded 23 urinary events, in addition to any bowel movements. Although this represents an extreme example, it illustrates how intermittent checks may not reveal the full frequency of elimination events or how long a person may remain exposed between care visits.

Even when the frequency is lower, the underlying question remains: can care respond more promptly without requiring a caregiver to be physically present for every event?

A more responsive approach

An automated toileting system can provide another option for appropriate users. Carebidet is designed to detect urine or feces, remove waste, wash the perineal area with warm water, dry with warm air and support continuous moisture management while the person remains in bed.

This approach may reduce repeated manual toileting tasks, delays, odor, disposable brief use, and stress for residents, families, and caregivers. Most importantly, it can support more consistent hygiene and dignified care when mobility limitations make conventional toileting difficult.

A meaningful improvement in dignified care is no longer only a future possibility. For appropriate individuals and care settings, the technology is available now, so waiting does not have to remain the hardest part.

Learn more: www.carebidetusa.com

This article provides general educational information and is not medical advice. Individual needs, continence status, skin condition, mobility and device suitability should be reviewed with qualified healthcare professionals.