

# BIDET Information Sheet for EMS Assessors

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The following information provides design/technical points, relevant aspects of Ministry of Health EMS funding and clinical considerations to think about during the assessment and modification process.

The EMS Assessor's role is to ensure that the person, family/whanau and caregivers are fully informed. This can be done by either providing the information yourself, or by directing the equipment supplier and/or List Contractor/Builder to assist with technical or installation details.

## **Design/Technical Points about Bidets and things to think about:**

1. A bidet is installed onto a toilet (replacing the existing toilet seat) and uses heated water and air for hygiene after toileting
2. Requires it's own power source & fuses
3. Has both male or female functions
4. You will need to check specifications with the supplier and provide any recommendations:
  - weight limit
  - water temperature
  - installation compatibility with existing toilet / bowl size and shape.
  - any water pressure or water volume requirements
  - battery back up requirements
  - operation - generally the unit can be manual operation or remote but not both. The controls are usually on the right hand side which may be an issue if the person does not have adequate right hand function (in which case the remote could be used and positioned on the left hand side wall)
  - Space within the toilet bowl. The seat depth may be reduced with the bidet seat. Check this does not sit the person too far forward causing postural issues.
  - Check floor to seat height and installed dimensions from side and back walls
5. Consider whether any equipment would usually be used on/over the toilet.. A raised toilet seat, over toilet frame or a shower commode chair will not be compatible with the bidet



attachment as the water spray will not be high enough.

6. Check transfer techniques - the bidet attachment may not be robust enough for a “heavy landing” or sideways transfer (irrespective of the person’s weight)
7. A bidet may reduce the need for additional washing and may result in complete independence if a carer is usually required solely for this task. However the person does need to have a reasonable level of cognition to operate the bidet. and this needs to be taken into consideration.

## Ministry of Health EMS Funding Considerations

1. Bidet funding may be considered where:
  - the person is unable to complete hygiene tasks themselves
  - the person has issues with continence / skin breakdown
  - there is undue carer stress
2. It is helpful to understand the difference between a housing modification vs. equipment vs. equipment included in a housing modification vs. housing equipment:
  - A housing modification is a permanent / fixed alteration to the home. The housing modification becomes the home owner’s property.
  - Equipment which is portable (able to be easily picked up and moved) and is not fixed to the home (and is applied for via an Equipment Application) and is owned by the Ministry of Health.
  - Equipment included in a housing modification is an item that is fixed to the home.
  - Housing equipment is equipment that is included in a housing modification that is removable and able to be refurbished for reissue to another person. The use of reissue housing equipment provides considerable savings to the Ministry of Health EMS budget.

**Note:** Generally housing equipment includes: 1m low rise platform lifts and modular ramps. The EMS Provider identifies if the equipment included in the housing modification application is considered as ‘housing equipment’ and will remain the property of the Ministry of Health or becomes the property of the home owner. Check with the EMS Provider for equipment such as stair chair lifts, stair platform lifts, 1.5m lifts, multi-floor lifts, ceiling track hoists, bidets, shower beds etc.

