COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT: URINARY INCONTINENCE

Presented by Lindsay Houlihan, Sophia Trantino, Jenny Laneville, Ava Pulisciano, Emily Wightman



Overflow incontinence: You dribble a little and can't fully empty vour bladder.





Stress incontinence:

Sneezing, coughing or physical activity

make vou leak.

Urge incontinence: You feel like you must pee immediatelv. You mav leak fore making it to bathroom.

Mixed incontinence: A combination of conditions make you leak

URINARY INCONTINENCE

WHAT IS UI?

A person leaks urine by accident

It can range from drops of urine, heavy wetting, or not being able to hold any amount of urine

It's important to remember **UI is a symptom**

TYPES & SYMPTOMS

- Stress: most common form where it becomes difficult to hold urine as abdominal pressure increases
 - Examples: laughing, coughing, exercise, heavy lifting, and sneezing
- Urge: little to no warning where people are immediately rushed to the bathroom
- Mixed: combination of stress and urge
- Functional: inability to to get to the toilet because of injury, lack of equipment, or dependence on a caregiver





OCCUPATIONAL CHALLENGES

- Rest & Sleep
- Social isolation
- Intimacy
- **ADLs**
- **IADLs**
- Work

(Cunningham & Valasek, 2019) (Hegge, 2025) (Malcolm, 2022) (NIA, 2022)

PREVALENT POPULATIONS

<u>Female</u> Pregnancy • Postpartum Post-menopausal

General

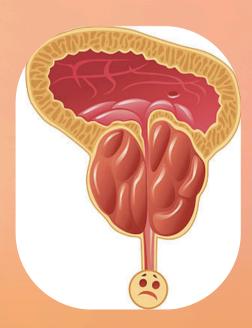
- Tumors
- Neurological Conditions (MS, Parkinson's, CVA, SCI)
- Older age







Male • Prostate Cancer Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia





RESOURCES Why are they appropriate for this population?



SEATED MARCHING WITH ALTERNATING ARMS AND LEGS (10 REPS, 4X/WEEK)

LINK: https://youtu.be/WQiBvmj4IZA

BENEFITS: Engaging the deep core muscles can increase pelvic floor strength and endurance. Each time the leg lifts, the pelvic floor must stabilize itself!

STANDING MARCHING (20 REPS-10 PER LEG, 1X/DAY)

LINK: https://youtu.be/sHiXz5fGXGk

BENEFITS: This exercise simulates the movement of walking. With these marches, you will strengthen balance and improve pelvic floor muscles' stability.

PELVIC FLOOR STRENGTHENING EXERCISES

LEVEL : MODERATE

STRAIGHT LEG RAISE (10 REPS, 1X/DAY)

LINK: https://youtu.be/K0V6hIT5M9w

BENEFITS: By engaging the abdominal and pelvic floor muscles, it promotes coordination & stabilization of the pelvic floor each time the leg is raised.

OBLIQUE REACHES (10 REPS, 4X/WEEK)

LINK: https://youtu.be/R14pVU2wuRY

BENEFITS: By activating the deep core muscles, performing this exercise controlled improves muscle tone & supports the bladder needed for pelvic stability.





LEVEL : DIFFICULT

BIRD DOG QUADRUPED ALTERNATE ARM & LEG (10 REPS, 4X/WEEK)

LINK: https://youtu.be/qleZKES3Xh0

BENEFITS: Lifting opposite arms and legs challenges balance and coordination, while supporting the back and hips to help with posture and bladder control.

LATERAL LUNGE (10 REPS, 4X/WEEK)

LINK: https://youtu.be/Z7iaLeTTGj4

BENEFITS: Stepping and bending to the side challenges balance and hip strength, while contracting the pelvic floor to strengthen hips, legs, and core all while improving balance, flexibility, and pelvic floor control.

GOORINS WITH URINARY

INCONTINENCE

BY: Lindsay Houlihan, Jenny Laneville, Ava Pulisciano, Sophia Trantino, and Emily Wightman

OTTHEORY

BIOMECHANICAL FRAME OF REFERENCE

RESTORING PHYSICAL FUNCTION BY: strengthening pelvic

- floor muscles
- building endurance for incontinence
- improving body mechanics

PERSON: encouraging independent management of symptoms, improvement of physical function, and motivation to prevent incontinence

ENVIRONMENT: modifying habits and diet to promote change

OCCUPATION: toileting, hygiene, health management, social participation (SCHLEGEL, 2025)



PERSON-ENVIRONMENT-OCCUPATION MODEL

LINK TO CLIENT FACTORS

WHO IS EFFECTED BY INCONTINENCE? Older Adults Women (postpartum, pregnant, menopause) Individuals with neurologial conditions cognitive impairments mobility impairments

WHAT CLIENT FACTORS ARE IMPACTED **BY INCONTINENCE?** Sensory functions Genitourinary and reproductive functions Neuromusculoskeletal and movementrelated functions **Emotional functions**

HOW CAN THEY BENEFIT FROM OUR **RESOURCES**?

> Improve bladder control and reduce leakage Minimize urgency and frequency Support dignity and independence in toileting and community participation Improve quality of life by addressing both physical and emotional aspects of incontinence

HOW ARE THESE OCCUPATION-BASED INTERVENTIONS?

Cooking

Symptom & Condition Management

Cooking falls under the occupation of IADL's

Our cookbook and exercise plan can be used together to manage UI & its symptoms to aid in improving ones overall well-being!

Physical Activty

Physical Activity falls under the occupation of Health Management

American Occupational Therapy Association. (2020). Occupational therapy practice framework: Domain and process (4th ed.). American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 74 (2), 7412410010, 8. https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.74S2001

Brigham Urogynecology Group. (2015). Dietary bladder irritants to the bladder. https://www.brighamandwomens.org/assets/BWH/obgyn/pdfs/bladder-irritants.pdf

Cunningham, R., & Valasek, S. (2019). Occupational therapy interventions for urinary dysfunction in primary care: A case series. The American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 73(5), 7305185040p1-7305185040p8. https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2019.038356

Downloadable Exercises For Your Pelvic Floor. (n.d.). National Association for Continence. https://nafc.org/downloadable-pelvic-floor-exercises/

Hegge, J. (2025). Cerebrovascular Accident [PowerPoint Slides]. Graduate Program Department of Occupational Therapy, Sacred Heart University. Blackboard@SHU. https://blackboard.sacredheart.edu/webapps/login/

Hegge, J. (2025). OT Frames of Reference in Physical Rehabilitation [PowerPoint Slides]. Blackboard. https://blackboard.sacredheart.edu/ultra/courses/_83212_1/outline/file/_5271212_1

Jenkins, S. (2022, May 9). The overactive bladder diet. National Association for Continence. https://nafc.org/bhealth-blog/the-overactive-bladder-diet/

Malcolm, X. (2022, October 25). Latchkey incontinence. Health Beat. https://jamaicahospital.org/newsletter/latchkey-incontinence/

Mansfield, R. (2023, June 28). Fruit sorbet(2-ingredients). rachLmansfield. https://rachlmansfield.com/fruit-sorbet-2-ingredients/

Mayo Clinic. (2023). Urinary Incontinence - Symptoms and Causes. Mayo Clinic. https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/urinary-incontinence/symptoms-causes/syc-20352808

National Institute on Aging. (2022, January 24). Urinary incontinence in older adults. https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/bladder-health-and-incontinence/urinary-incontinence-older-adults

Nitti V. W. (2001). The prevalence of urinary incontinence. Reviews in urology, 3 Suppl 1(Suppl 1), S2–S6.

Novamed Europe Ltd. (2025, January 20). Incontinence friendly recipes. Novamed (Europe) Ltd. https://novamedpads.co.uk/blogs/blog/incontinence-friendly-recipes? srsltid=AfmBOoqS4Vs7aU2IT9IyqJivFGp-YmRqSqwPRNWDhIMG3krJhYRs3chq

Schlegel, S. (2025). Health Promotion, Prevention, and Well-Being [PowerPoint Slides]. Blackboard. https://blackboard.sacredheart.edu/ultra/courses/_82771_1/outline/file/_5300185_1

Septak, M. (2022.). Back to school with incontinence: Bladder-friendly lunches for kids. Aeroflow Urology. Retrieved July 22, 2025, from https://aeroflowurology.com/blog/bladder-friendly-lunches-forkids

Urology Care Foundation (2025). Food & Recipes. https://www.urologyhealth.org/healthy-living/food-and-recipes

