

## For Female Wheelchair Users, a device to urinate normally without transfer

For female wheelchair users, who can no longer stand, having to urinate can be a complicated business. These ladies are often dependent on the help of another person and the whole exercise of having to transfer from the wheelchair to the toilet can be embarrassing, awkward and very tiring. Often, the wheelchair user will try and control the situation by limiting the fluid intake to reduce the times she may have to toilet, sometimes with (medically) detrimental effects. Away from home, necessary help, or even a suitable toilet, is not always available, making the whole toileting exercise very difficult and often impossible. This makes going out a very unpleasant and stressful experience, and wheelchair users will make the decision to just stay at home, rather than leave their home environment and having to deal with, what seems, an unsolvable problem. These ladies then lose much of their social interaction and become housebound.



The Urine Receptacle is made from a grey PVC with, at one end, a latex bag which catches the urine. If desired, this latex bag can be replaced with a small hose, which then hangs in the toilet.



The Invention Cushion available in an electric or manual version.



Also available as a seatmat. This seatmat is just 5 mm thick and works exactly the same as the Invention Cushion. This model is meant for incidental use.

To overcome this problem a Dutch woman with a neuromuscular disease and B&S have developed the Invention Cushion. This cushion has an interesting interior. The seat has an individual left and right side which can be inflated electrically or manually by the user. As the cushion inflates, the user is lifted and a channel is created between the right and left side of the cushion. A urine receptacle (included) then slides into the channelled space, ready for use. Skirt or pants (after a slight modification) can be kept on while using.

With this cushion the user need have no fear and can use a normal toilet, The user can drink healthy amounts of liquids and can experience a strong feeling of freedom and independence.

The Invention Cushion can be made in different sizes and is of a quality so that it can permanently replace the seat of an electric wheelchair. However, this cushion should not be used if one suffers from decubitus.

*Anna: 'Thanks to the seatmat that can be used in my specially moulded wheelchair seat, I can urinate without being dependent on a disabled toilet. It is also much better for my caretaker who now doesn't need to lift me every time. I can go out for a whole day and can even travel. This wonderful invention means independence, freedom, health and mobility to me without having to give up my privacy'.*



**1** Inflating the cushion by squeezing the rubber inflators.

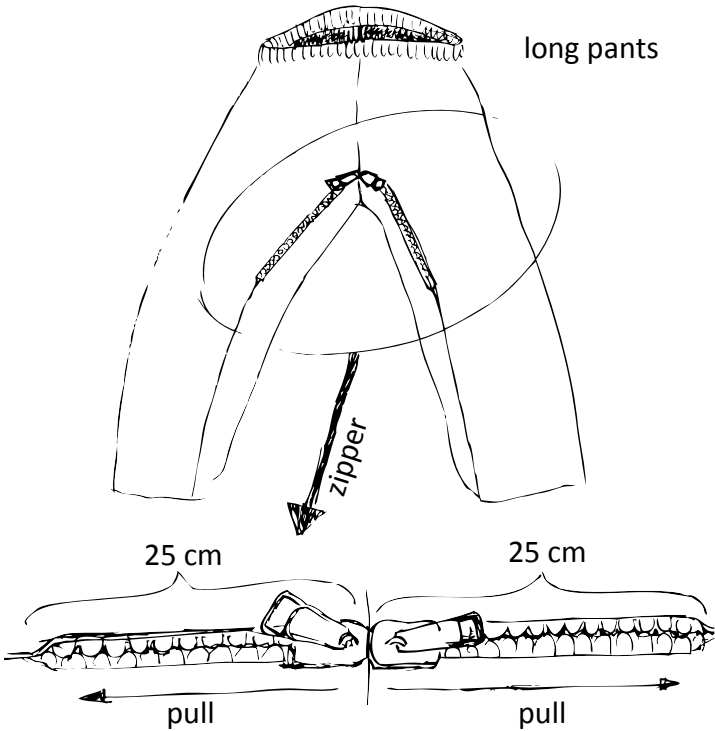


**2** The cushion is inflated and has lifted the user. Now the urine receptacle can be placed between the legs.

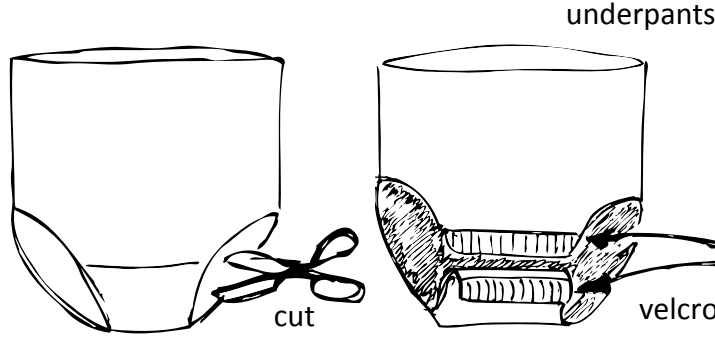


**3** Now one can urinate normally. When done, the collected urine can be discarded.

Karen: 'I can visit my friends again, go out shopping, go to the theatre, cinema etc. No more worries about needing to use the bathroom. I can now help myself without having to stand up from my wheelchair. My friends don't even notice that I wear especially adapted pants. A health professional once advised me to take a urinary catheter that requires a surgery. She said it was the best solution for women in wheelchairs to be able to urinate. But now I know much better! The Invention Cushion allows me the freedom I need'.



Normal pants can be adapted by opening the inside leg seam. Then close this opening with a zipper or velcro. No one can see this modification and this opening will then allow the placing of the urine receptacle.



Normal undies can be adapted by cutting them and then sewing velcro on the edges for closing. The undies can then easily be opened with one hand so that the urine receptacle can be placed.