

# Christies Care

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Bowel care is classed as an invasive procedure. Carers should get proper training to carry this out, and it is not something we give. NHS staff can (and do) train carers to do bowel care.

When we are commissioned to care for a client by the PCT or local authority, it is up to the commissioning authority to decide whether carers should do bowel care or not. In general, commissioners are against it. However, this does not rule out carers giving bowel care in every case; a strong client will generally get what they want. Their carers will receive the right training to do bowel care, and will carry it out, safely and competently. Our insurance covers them if they have been signed off as competent in that procedure, but only for that client. And we will ask our clients to sign a disclaimer to say they understand this.

With private clients (including direct payments), where we act as an introducing agency, we have no control over whether the carer does bowel care or not. It is up to the client and carer. However, if the carer or client asks us for advice, we strongly recommend that the carer receives the correct training from the NHS.

Our insurance covers them if they have been signed off as competent in that procedure, but only for that client. And we will ask our clients to sign a disclaimer to say they understand this.

Private clients where we employ care workers may want bowel care. Here, the position is essentially the same as our introducing agency arrangement, with one exception. We must require that our client can be shown knowingly to accept the risk of an unorthodox procedure and we must have this clearly documented in writing before we will knowingly allow it to take place.

Bowel care is an invasive procedure. It is not against the law, so it is not an illegal procedure. Where we are employers, we must be careful to be exonerated from a charge of 'abuse' - bowel care without a carefully documented disclaimer might constitute potential abuse. Our client is in his/her rights to ask for it and we have the right to allow it to take place, once we are safeguarded from potential problems.

Throughout, the carer must be willing to carry out bowel care: we cannot insist.