

# Rapid HTA on the use of vesicostomy buttons in children

## What did this assessment look at?

We were asked to examine the use of vesicostomy buttons as a way of managing urine storage and bladder emptying problems in children.

## What did this assessment find?

We found that there were few studies published on the use of vesicostomy buttons in children. However, no serious safety concerns were identified in the literature we found and generally positive outcomes were reported.

The studies suggest that vesicostomy buttons may be a useful option for certain children, when using a standard catheter (passing a tube into the bladder) is difficult, painful or not possible, and represent a more discreet option, so may be preferred by patients and carers.



## What is a vesicostomy button?

The vesicostomy button is a small medical-grade silicone device that is passed into the bladder, through the abdomen just below the bellybutton. This is done to allow urine to drain out of the bladder and to reduce urine going back up to the kidneys.

The vesicostomy button is a modified version of a device which was originally designed for 'tube feeding' into the stomach. It was first repurposed for bladder drainage in 1996 and has since been used more widely in paediatrics internationally and in Ireland.



## Why would a child need this?

Children with certain rare or uncommon health conditions can have problems storing urine and emptying their bladder.

One of these health conditions is known as neurogenic bladder, where the nerves which control the bladder are damaged, for example due to spina bifida.