

Problems that may affect bladder and bowel function in neurological injury or condition

If you have a neurological injury or condition, you may find your bladder and bowel do not work as well as they used to or they may work differently.



Changes in bladder function may include:

- Lack of bladder control (incontinence)
- Inability to empty the bladder (retention)
- Increased urinary frequency
- Urinary tract infections



Changes in bowel function may include:

- Loss of bowel control (incontinence)
- Reduced bowel movements (constipation)

If you notice changes in how your bladder or bowel function, inform a healthcare professional. It is important to identify changes in bladder or bowel function early in order to:

- Establish a regular regime including using medication and/or continence aids
- Prevent damage to bladder or bowel caused by retention or constipation
- Improve quality of life
- Reduce psychological distress caused by incontinence, retention or constipation
- Improve understanding of the impact of neurogenic bladder and bowel

