

MISSION STATEMENT

The World Federation of Incontinent Patients (WFIP) is a global non-profit association for patients suffering from incontinence and related pelvic floor disorders and their respective national associations. The Federation is dedicated to promoting worldwide the interests of such patients and patient associations. The Federation provides its individual member associations with the most comprehensive and up-to-date information and guidelines and educational resources. It seeks international cooperation via contact with official bodies and patient advocacy groups.

Representing...

Belgium	Italy
Canada	Netherlands
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Egypt	Romania
France	Spain
Germany	Sweden
Great Britain	USA
Greece	

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS:

The Voice of Rare Diseases in Europe
www.Eurordis.org

World Health Organization (WHO)
www.who.org

Continence Promotion Committee of the
International Continence Society (ICS)
www.icsoffice.org

International Alliance of Patients'
Organizations (IAPO)
www.patientsorganizations.org



For further information, contact
The Federation:

WFIP Viale Orazio Flacco, 24
70124 Bari ITALY

Telephone: +39 080 5093389

Fax: +39 080 5619181

Email: finco@wfip.org

www.wfip.org

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President	Francesco Diomede	finco@wfip.org
Vice-president	Francoise Kremer	femsante@wfip.org
Vice-president	Lynne van Poelgeest	12move@wfip.org
Secretary	Nancy Muller	nafc@wfip.org
Treasurer	Tomasz Michalek	ntm@wfip.org
Adviser	Lesley Woolnough	bbf@wfip.org
Auditor	Magda Strippoli	virgilio@wfip.org
Medical Director	Diaa Rizk, FRCOG, FRCS, MD	



The Federation

**A global assembly of patient
advocates working on behalf
of people living with urinary or
faecal incontinence and related
pelvic floor disorders**

By Patients
About Patients
For Patients

Background

The World Federation of Incontinent Patients (WFIP) is a non-profit organization established in 2005 to advocate on behalf of the estimated 50-100 million adults worldwide with urinary and/or faecal incontinence and related pelvic floor disorders. The figure could be as high as 260 million. The Federation serves as an umbrella, global entity for all of them, as well as for residents of those countries without any such representative.

It was assembled out of concern that, even across Europe, those suffering from this condition are not receiving the attention required from government agencies, researchers, elected officials, policy makers or health institutions, especially in terms of cure, prevention, rehabilitation, assistance and work opportunities. The Federation seeks to represent all such individuals on a global level so that they will be afforded the same rights and opportunities to quality of life as others. Its primary objectives are to provide successful treatment and restoration of dignity in life for those individuals affected, including caregivers. The organization's collective long-term goal is a significant reduction in the prevalence of the condition worldwide which would in turn result in meaningful economic savings.



Scope of the problem

The World Health Organization acknowledges that incontinence remains in the taboo sphere. One-third of the general public associates such problems with aging and thus something to accept. If left untreated, incontinence may provoke severe complications such as dermatitis, pressure ulcers, unpleasant odours as well as sexual dysfunction.

Global quality standards for medical devices and products used for managing continence do not exist to safeguard the individual. Neither is there freedom of choice in some countries to suit personal psychological and physical needs.

In many countries, access to technologically innovative and superior products is restricted because policy makers do not provide the funding to cover their costs. Medicines can play

a major role in improving a person's "quality of life" and rehabilitation. There is no harmonization of a reimbursement policy for medical devices within the European Union. The Federation is continuously striving to achieve this. Reimbursement can represent a major concern in terms of family expenditure.

A call to action: International patient bill of rights

- Receive treatment
- Have access to services without discrimination
- Be given a correct diagnosis
- Obtain up-to-date information
- Be given options
- Participate in the decision process
- Have access to quality therapy and medical care
- Have access to public toilets
- Have access to interdisciplinary care

