

# Commercial Opportunities

## e-PAQ Electronic Pelvic Floor Symptoms Assessment Questionnaire (ref: 302)

### Overview

e-PAQ is a development led by a consultant urologist to overcome the embarrassment faced by women sufferers of pelvic floor disorders. It is a touch screen driven patient questionnaire designed to identify pelvic floor symptoms and to provide the urologist with clear evidence based outcomes.

### The Problem

The impetus to produce an electronic instrument arose from the desire to comprehensively evaluate symptoms of sufferers of pelvic floor disorders which proved impractical using a paper questionnaire as verbal discussion of the issues may be of an embarrassing nature to women. A computerised interactive touch-screen system was considered to offer a practical approach to developing a new instrument derived from existing validated instruments in this field.

Bowel			
general screening	Yes		
incontinence screening	Yes		
evacuation screening	No		
stool frequency	About once a day	habit regularity	○○○○
stool consistency		stool variability	○○○○
stool liquid		impact	○○○○
abdominal bloating		impact	Not shown
evacuation straining		impact	○○○○
evacuation incomplete		impact	○○○○
evacuation painful		impact	○○○○
laxative use			
evacuation duration		impact	○○○○
evacuation perineal spitting		impact	Not shown
evacuation anal digitation		impact	Not shown
urges without evacuation		impact	Not shown
reduced sensation		impact	○○○○
urgency		impact	○○○○
ability to defer		impact	○○○○
urge incontinence		impact	○○○○
incontinence flatus		impact	○○○○
incontinence liquid stool		impact	○○○○
incontinence solid stool		impact	○○○○
pad use	2-3 pads per day	impact	○○○○
incontinence without sensation		impact	○○○○
physical impact			
social impact			
overall impact			



### The Solution

Electronic pelvic floor assessment questionnaire (e-PAQ) is a purpose designed interactive female patient questionnaire for sufferers of the inter-related areas of pelvic floor disorders (comprising 4 sections: sexual matters; vaginal; urinary and bowel). The results inform their subsequent clinical management (prescribing, referrals and costs). The invention is based on replacing paper-based quality of life questionnaires with a touch screen pc and an electronic browser-based system running against a server database engine. It utilises a number of well founded paper based questionnaires but combined together to provide a unique assessment of symptoms, immediate data entry and instantaneous data analysis.

### The Market

Women will benefit in the NHS and private hospital clinics (gynaecology, sexual medicine; urology and colorectal); in the community (continence nursing and physiotherapy clinics) in the UK, Europe and elsewhere. At this stage it is a little early to estimate the exact market size but most hospitals have a urology outpatients department (450 in the UK).

### The Next Steps

The e-PAQ electronic questionnaire has created considerable interest. As well as winning a recent Healthcare IT Award it is undergoing a wider clinical evaluation by other UK urologists. If successful a business model will be developed that would be rolled out in 2006 in order to cover the costs of making e-PAQ universally available and to generate ongoing development funds for improving e-PAQ and extending it in to other areas such as men's health. We are seeking a partner with the skill and expertise to help us develop this further.

