

4

Socialising & social context

This module aims to get you feeling more confident in handling social situations and going out in public, as a catheter user. We are going to look at how we can prevent social concerns getting in the way of living a life that is meaningful and pleasure filled.

Before we get started, please fill in your pixel tracker from page 2.



Common concerns

On-screen there are common concerns people have about socialising or being away from home when starting to catheterise.

Write down two concerns you may have about cathing away from home.

1.

2.

After this, please watch the videos of other users talking about their common concerns, how they coped in these situations and sharing some tips.

Why we fear others' judgement

Humans are social by nature. We naturally want acceptance from others, so our brains are alert to signs of rejection. This feeling intensifies when we have a health issue, disability, or belong to a minority group.

Downward arrowing

Follow along with Kiera and Sula to answer the questions below.

1

Write one thing you are worried about

2

Why does this make you worried?

3

Is that the worst thing?

4

Is there anything more?

5

What will it mean for you, and what will happen?

The anxiety equation

Here's what happens when you're anxious or worried about something. Your brain overamplifies the likelihood and awfulness and underestimates your ability to cope and the resources that you have.

$$\text{Anxiety} = \frac{\text{Perceived likelihood} \times \text{Perceived awfulness}}{\text{Capacity to cope} \times \text{Resources}}$$

To tackle the social concerns, we can work on all four

1. Reduce the perceived likelihood
2. Reduce the perceived awfulness
3. Increase your confidence in your capacity to cope
4. Enhance your resources or support

Complete the content below for 1 and 3. There are videos for 2 and 4 to help you.

1. Feared predications behavioural experiments

Last module you were introduced to "behavioural experiments". This is something we can use here too, to help the brain update the perceived likelihood of our negative predictions.

Listen to the behavioural experiment ideas in the video. Using the principles of behavioural experiments from the last session, we can now build on these ideas by following the instructions below.

- Write your feared predictions and rate how likely they are out of 100

Feared prediction

Rating

- Set up your experiment safely and reasonably
- Conduct the experiment and get your data
- Reflect on your findings and what it means about the predictions. Re-rate them
- Repeat!

3. Increasing your confidence in your capacity to cope

We need to build our capacity for dealing with situations where we fear the judgment of others.

We need to make sure we understand the distinction between assertiveness, aggression/confrontation and passive aggression.

In the table below match each statement to either assertiveness, aggression/confrontation and passive aggression. Do this before carrying on with the video to check your answers.

Statement	Type of behaviour
"I appreciate I took a while. It was unavoidable. It is unfair to tut at someone when you don't know their situation."	
"What the hell are you tutting about?"	
"Thanks so much for your patience." (with irony)	

Practicing Assertiveness log

Start with basic assertion for a week or two, then gradually practice other techniques.

Keep a log of your experiences to track progress and identify the most useful techniques.

Date / Time	Technique used	Situation and how used	Things to remember for next time
/			
/			
/			
/			
/			
/			

Let's reflect

During module 4, we have learned more about how we can prevent social concerns getting in the way of living a life that is meaningful and pleasure filled.

It's time to practice these new skills and techniques. Decide which techniques on the screen you are going to try out.



Imagery



**Practicing
assertiveness**



**Behavioural
experiments**

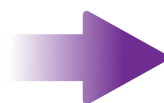
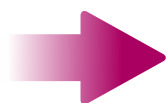
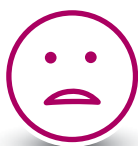
When will you do this?

How often?

How will you know you've done it?

Before you go, how are you currently feeling about catheterising?

Log your current rating of anxiety about catheterising by ticking a number.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Contact our me+ Continence Care Support Team
for additional resources:

Australia: Call 1800 335 276 or
email connection.au@convatec.com

New Zealand: Call 0800 225 4309 or
email connection.nz@convatec.com

Notes





Guiding the way to confident living
with intermittent catheterisation

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