

# Counting the cost of care



## Care package vs. equipment:

How do you quantify and qualify the cost of care?

What price would you put on someone's independence?

Their feeling of control over daily activities?

Their ability to stay in their own home?

Their health, well-being and hygiene?

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# We go to the toilet on average eight times a day. Physical and/or mental limitations may make it hard or impossible to do safely and hygienically.

## Options:

- A care package (1 or 2 carers to assist, equivalent of 2 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year).
- Provision of a wash & dry (shower) toilet.
- Provision of a wash & dry toilet and toilet lift.

## 'Year of care' costs:

- Care package: £15/hour = £10,950 pa\* ongoing cost.
- Provision of a wash & dry toilet i.e. Closomat Palma Vita: £2740 one-off cost.
- Provision of a wash & dry toilet (Palma Vita) and toilet lift (Aerolet): £5906 one-off cost.

## Summary:

In a single year, providing equipment – where appropriate – in place of care intervention enables at least twice as many people to be enabled to be independent, stay in their own home. Which also has a positive impact on:

- Recipient's mental state.
- Recipient's well-being and hygiene (effective cleanliness avoiding urinary, faecal contamination of skin, anus etc).
- Reduced likelihood of falls via the safety provided by the toilet lift.

\* source: Money Advice Service 2018.

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