



***Obesity & Incontinence: Maintaining Skin Health with the AIR-Plus™  
Bariatric Brief by Tranquility***  
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Overweight and obesity are common health conditions and the prevalence of these conditions is increasing nationally and globally. Worldwide, nearly two billion individuals are overweight equaling the number of individuals suffering from starvation. The World Health Organization has projected that by 2015 approximately 2.3 billion adults will be overweight and more than 700 million obese. The consequences of obesity are significant and excess weight on an individual is real threat to their health.

Obesity is one of the major risk factors in bladder incontinence. Intra-abdominal pressure among the morbidly obese people is widespread. As fatty tissue accumulates in the abdominal cavity, it creates pressure on the internal organs and the skin. Stress incontinence, defined as the leakage of urine due to sudden pressure on the bladder, is very common in the obese population due to the constant pressure on the bladder. Obesity is also a major risk factor in **compromised skin integrity**. Some of the skin challenges related to obesity include: pressure ulcers, candidiasis, delayed wound healing, incontinence dermatitis and irritation in skin folds or any area where skin rubs against skin. These skin folds harbor moisture and breed bacterial fungal and viral growth resulting in rashes, blisters and infection which attack the integrity of the skin.

Because we at PBE are passionate about addressing the needs of the people we serve, [Tranquility](#) is introducing yet another premium product that is unparalleled to any other bariatric brief which will address the two challenges mentioned above. The 100% breathable “**AIR- Plus**” Bariatric Brief is the largest brief on the market with stretch side panels that will fit a waist up to 106.” Because the **AIR- Plus** has the stretchy side panels, this brief follows the body contour and allows firm support. The micro-hook closure tabs, secured on the cloth-like outer layer, enables repositioning and allows for multiple openings.

Obese people of any age that experience incontinence due to weakened pelvic muscles and increased pressure on the bladder can be confident that the **AIR-Plus** Brief will deliver a performance that will improve their quality of life. With a 34oz (1005ml) capacity, an individual can stay in one brief for many hours before changing and because of its superior absorption and the internal kufguards, leakage is not an issue. Along with Tranquility’s Peach Mat Guarantee, these are major assets for the end user and the caregiver.

Managing the moisture in the skin folds, especially the pannus, is also addressed with the **AIR-Plus** Brief. Tranquility has always guaranteed skin dryness with their products, which greatly reduces the risk for bacterial growth; however, the new **AIR-Plus** Brief has an antimicrobial coating which inhibits the growth of microorganisms on the garment. So, not only can this high rise brief fit nicely under the pannus (abd. fold) to eliminate moisture and odor, but will also contribute to the prevention and/or healing process of any skin irritations due to its inhibition of new microorganism growth. Also as mentioned above, the 100% breathable brief allows air to circulate next to the skin which promotes healing.

The ***AIR-Plus*** Brief was trialed in a Bariatric Skilled Facility in the Toledo area on a woman who was experiencing skin excoriation under an abdominal fold and was going through 8-10 briefs a day due to wetness. The nurses were using skin barriers under the fold and also on her bottom for moisture management which was actually making her case worse. She was in the new ***AIR-Plus*** Brief for 8 days and saw significant results. With no skin barriers used during that time, her skin excoriation cleared and she only used 3-4 briefs per day and never felt wetness. These are the results Tranquility was expecting with this exceptional product. We look forward to serving the bariatric population with this premium product that will positively affect their quality of life and that.....is our passion.

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