

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Spina Bifida Association to Introduce Lifespan Bowel Management Protocol Protocol to be Presented at Bowel Management Workshop June 3, 2022**

Arlington, VA, April 26, 2022 - The Spina Bifida Association will introduce Lifespan Bowel Management Protocol on June 3, 2022, at the [Bowel Management Protocol Workshop](#) preceding the opening of the [Spina Bifida Clinical Care Meeting](#) in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Lifespan Bowel Management Protocol was developed to further support healthcare professionals in the effective, evidence-based management of bowel incontinence – birth to adulthood – for those living with Spina Bifida and neurogenic bowel. It includes practical recommendations to assist healthcare professionals in making informed treatment decisions with available scientific data. The aggressive implementation of this Protocol will decrease incontinence rates reducing the overall health risk and increasing the quality of life for those living with Spina Bifida.

The majority of those with Spina Bifida are at risk for bowel incontinence. In children and adolescents, bowel control is important for short and long-term health and plays a key role in the development of independence. For adults, urinary and bowel control is linked to educational attainment, establishing consequential social relationships and employment. "One of the top priorities of people living with Spina Bifida is bowel management, which is critical for health and quality of life," said Brad Dicianno, MD, Associate Medical Director at SBA. "We believe this protocol will be a useful, evidence-based tool for improving continence and reducing constipation and are pleased to be introducing it June 3, 2022, at the Bowel Management Workshop in Boston, Massachusetts". For more information about the Lifespan Bowel Management Protocol please contact Judy Thibadeau, RN, MN, Spina Bifida Association Director of Research and Services at [jthibadeau@sbaa.org](mailto:jthibadeau@sbaa.org).

Healthcare professionals interested in attending the Bowel Management Protocol Workshop are invited to [register here](#). For more information about the Spina Bifida Clinical Care Meeting, an unparalleled opportunity to network and collaborate with healthcare professionals engaged in Spina Bifida care, please contact [Judy Thibadeau](#) or visit the [Spina Bifida Association website](#).

The full text of the Lifespan Bowel Management Protocol will be available via the [Spina Bifida Association website](#) following the Clinical Care Meeting.

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#### About the Spina Bifida Association

The [Spina Bifida Association \(SBA\)](#), founded in 1973, is the only national voluntary health agency dedicated to Spina Bifida. The mission is to build a better and brighter future for all those impacted by Spina Bifida. Fueled by dedicated healthcare providers, parents, adults, caregivers, and others, we are committed to helping people live longer, healthier lives through Research, Education & Support, Clinical Care, Network Building, and Advocacy. Please visit our website <http://www.spinabifidaassociation.org> or call 800-621-3141.