



STOMA
LIFE

Who are we and what we do? A few words about our Foundation....



The STOMAlife Foundation fights against the social exclusion affecting stoma patients. Our aim is to break the taboo associated with stomas and to educate patients and the public about the facts and myths associated with it.

The Foundation was established in 2015, having previously operated for two years as a community campaign. The Foundation's headquarters is located in Warsaw. The area of the Foundation's activity is the territory of the Republic of Poland.

What we do?

The Foundation carry out comprehensive activities for the promotion and protection of health, social welfare and science, higher education and education, especially in the field of action for people affected by diseases of the digestive and urinary tract, including ostomy patients, in particular:

- promoting patients' rights and knowledge of state health policy,
- awakening and stimulating social sensitivity of various communities to the problems of persons with digestive and urinary tract diseases, with particular regard to persons with a stoma and promoting the idea of helping these people in their daily lives;
- undertake activities aimed at the integration and social activation of stoma patients and supporting their families;
- to develop national and international cooperation between those involved in the field of health sector with objectives that are compatible with those of the Foundation;
- to support and activate patient advocacy communities.
- developing and publishing free guides, stoma guidance, and leaflets
- running ostomy outpatients clinics
- publishing a free quarterly called Po Prostu Żyj
- preparing a stoma card I have a stoma

Some from our team...



Justyna Woźnicka – Soulmate Volunteer
Natalia Horszczaruk – Soulmate Volunteer
Katarzyna Szczepańska - Soulmate Volunteer
Agnieszka Siedlarska – Vice president of the management board

Dorota Minta –
president of the management board



Polish ostomy word some facts

- There are approximately 70,000 ostomies living in Poland
- About 8,000 stoma operations are performed every year
- the main cause is still colon cancer
- approximately 40% are colostomy
- stoma equipment is reimbursed - there is a monthly value limit (Colo&Ileo PLN 450; URO PLN 530) within which any equipment can be collected for care products/ accessories (PLN 120) , a 20% co-payment is required up to the limit (since 1st of January 2023)
- Is mostly I PC equipment market
- Equipment companies present at our market: Coloplast, Convatec, Dansac, Bbraun, Salts, Welland, Oxmed, TRIO, Ostoform
- The exact number of people living with an ostomy in Poland & exact data about reimbursement is not readily available in public sources

Main problems that Ostomates in Poland have to face

- Low value limit for accessories and 20% co-payment
- There are no ostomy outpatients clinics within the health fund
- Still low social awareness about stomas
- An embarrassing topic
- Frequent exclusion of stoma sufferers from kindergarten, school or work
- Lack of systemic support from specialists such as a dietitian, psychologist or rehabilitator







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STOMALIFE
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