



University of Antwerp  
| Faculty of Design Sciences

# Research en incontinentie bij kinderen

Lola Bladt – PhD candidate UAntwerpen

# Background

Design sciences and health sciences





# Background

- Master in Science in **Product Development**, Faculty of **Design Sciences**, University of Antwerp
- **Minze Health, R&D Manager** since 2015
- **PhD Candidate** since 2022
  - Design Sciences: Prof. Dr. Van Campenhout
  - Health Sciences: Prof. Dr. De Win & Prof. Dr. Vermandel
  - Minze Health: MSc Vermeulen



**Universiteit  
Antwerpen**



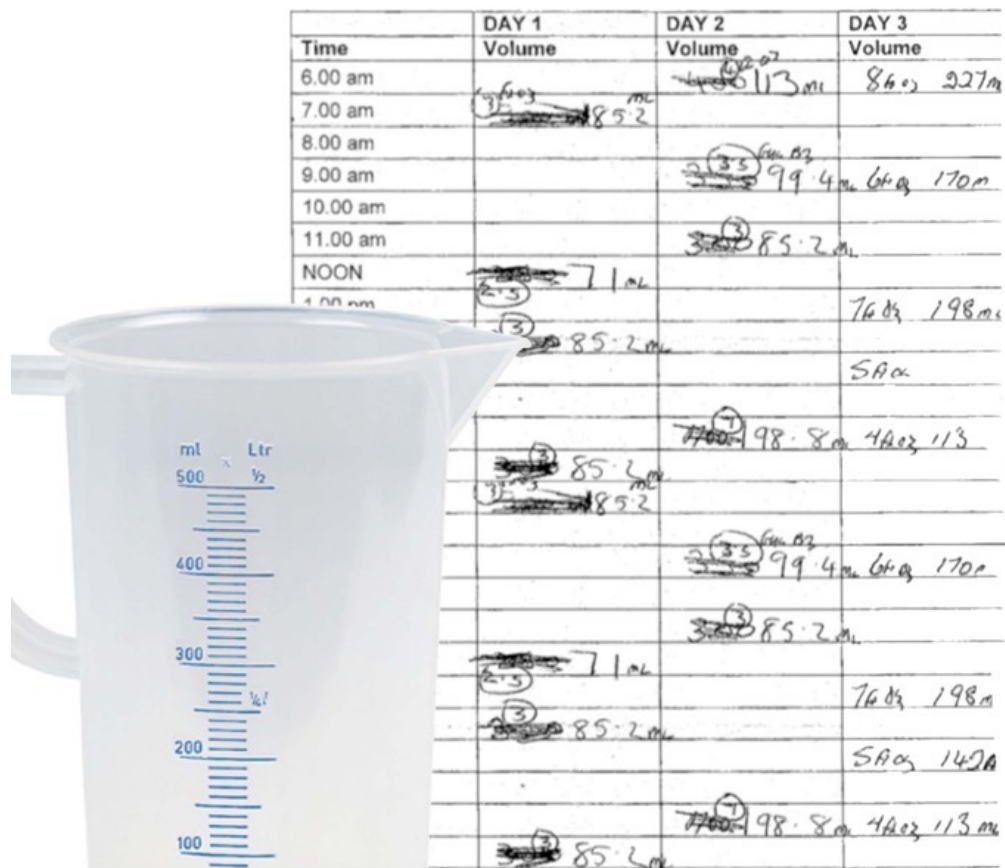
**Minze**  
health at home

# Minze Health

Digital-health



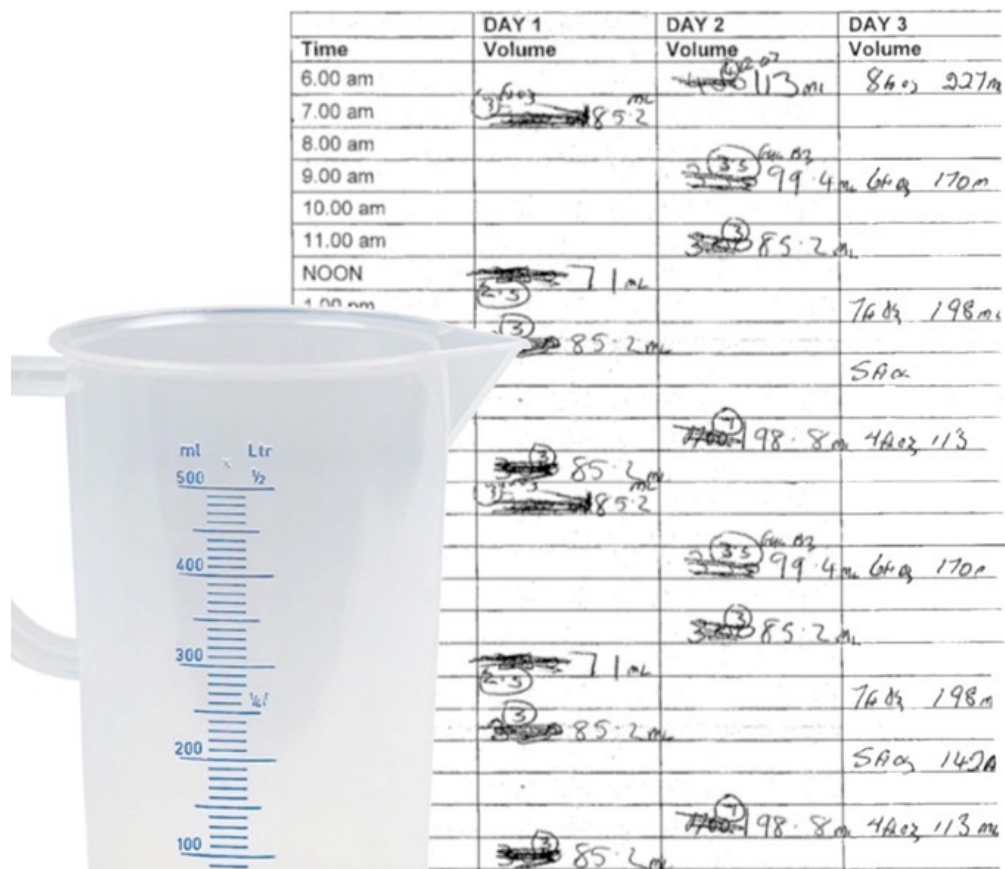
## Paper bladder diary



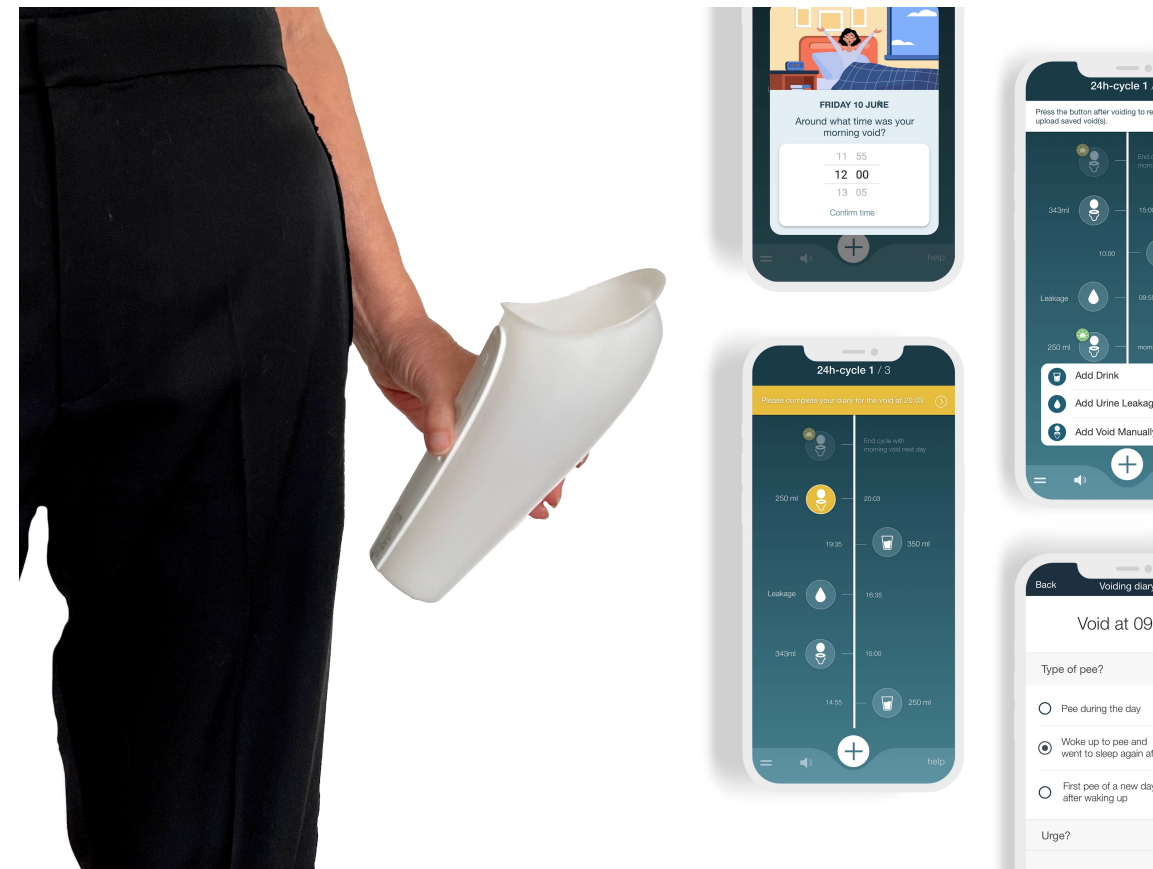
## Automated bladder diary



## Paper bladder diary



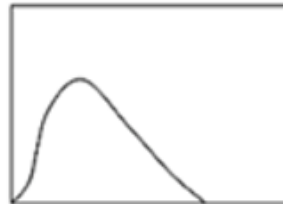
## Automated bladder diary



## In-clinic uroflowmetry



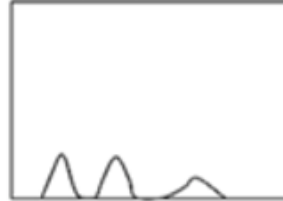
Normal (parabolic)



Plateau



Interrupted (fractionated)



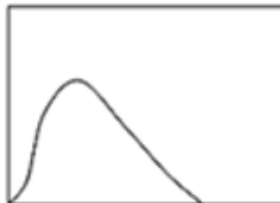
## Homeflow



## In-clinic uroflowmetry



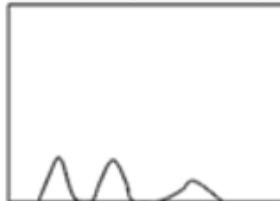
Normal (parabolic)



Plateau



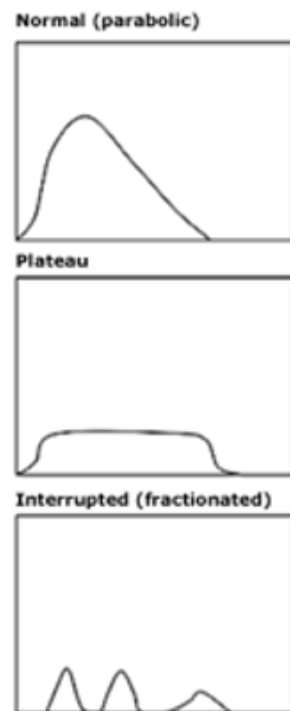
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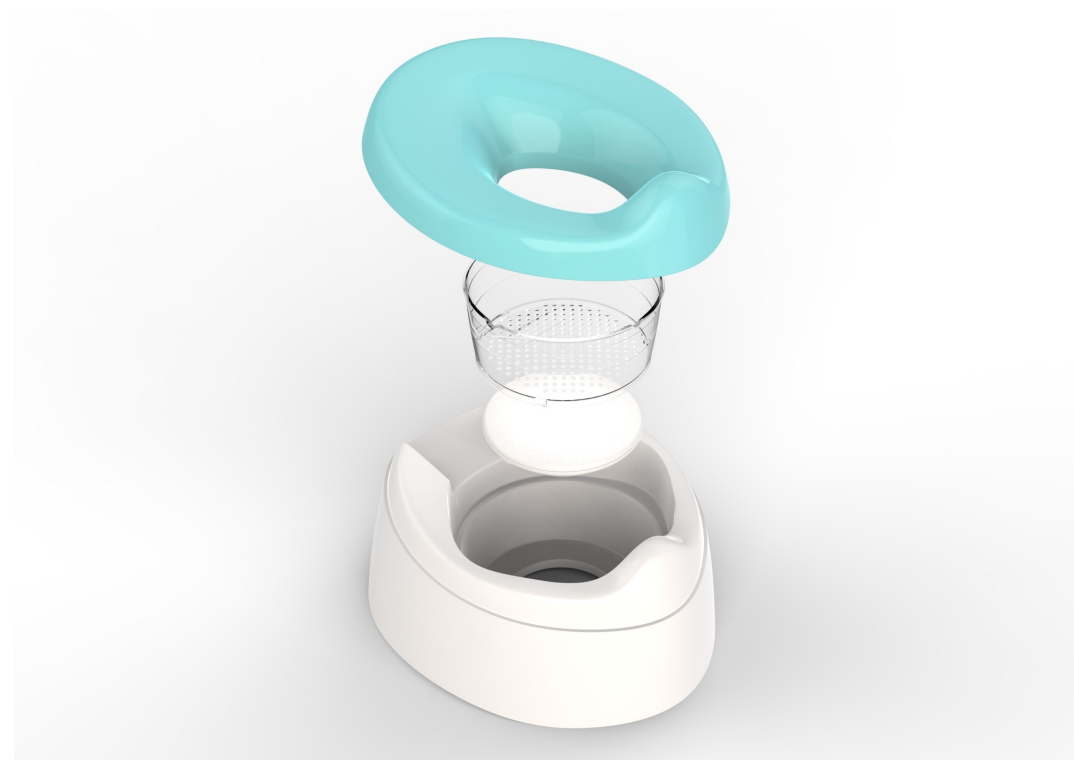
## Homeflow



## In-clinic uroflowmetry



## Homeflow



# PhD project

Children with LUTS



## CLINICIAN PORTAL

for remote follow-up and support

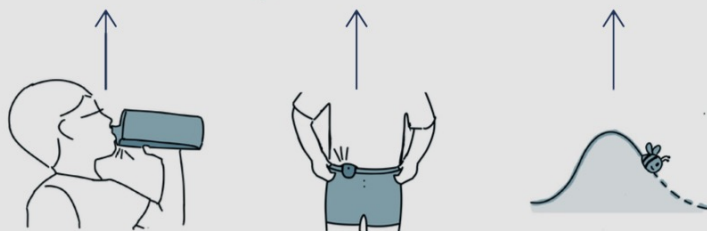


**RELIABLE DATA**  
due to better patient  
compliance

**PERSONALISED THERAPY**  
in therapy selection & by the  
supporting products

## AUTOMATED BLADDER DIARY

for diagnosis and during therapy



## ADD-ON ELEMENTS

to support dysfunction specific training elements

# Personalized urotherapy at home to improve the care pathway of children with lower urinary tract dysfunctions

**±10%** Children (5-13y) with Lower Urinary Tract dysfunction

**±50%** Success rate of urotherapy due to lack of motivation



Supporting products play a key role in motivation.

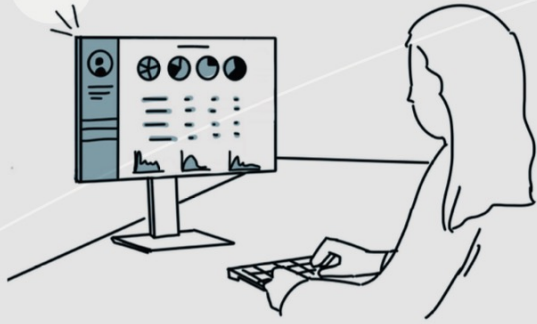
- Paper diaries
- (Bed)wetting alarm
- Timer watch
- Uroflowmetry / EMG (bio)feedback

Time	Volume	Uroflowmetry	EMG
6:00 am	100 ml	10 ml/s	10%
7:00 am	150 ml	15 ml/s	15%
8:00 am	200 ml	20 ml/s	20%
9:00 am	250 ml	25 ml/s	25%
10:00 am	300 ml	30 ml/s	30%
11:00 am	350 ml	35 ml/s	35%
12:00 pm	400 ml	40 ml/s	40%
1:00 pm	450 ml	45 ml/s	45%
2:00 pm	500 ml	50 ml/s	50%
3:00 pm	550 ml	55 ml/s	55%
4:00 pm	600 ml	60 ml/s	60%
5:00 pm	650 ml	65 ml/s	65%
6:00 pm	700 ml	70 ml/s	70%
7:00 pm	750 ml	75 ml/s	75%
8:00 pm	800 ml	80 ml/s	80%
9:00 pm	850 ml	85 ml/s	85%
10:00 pm	900 ml	90 ml/s	90%
11:00 pm	950 ml	95 ml/s	95%
12:00 am	1000 ml	100 ml/s	100%



## CLINICIAN PORTAL

for remote follow-up and support



## RELIABLE DATA

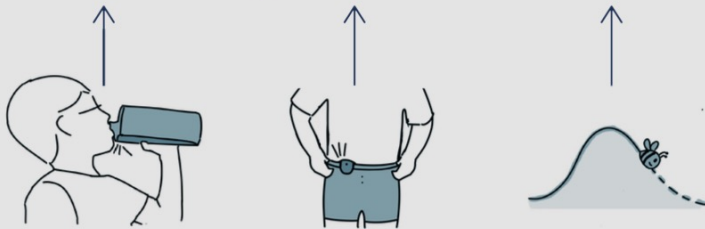
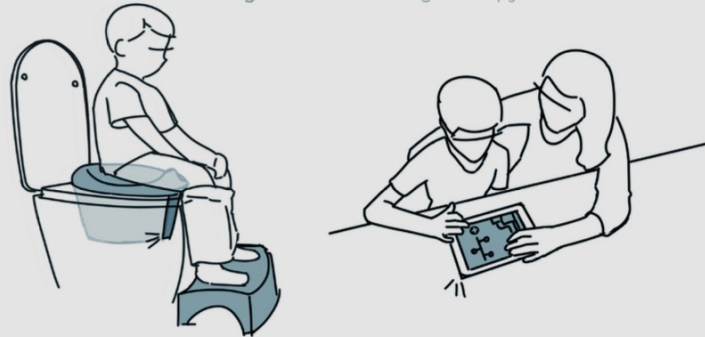
due to better patient compliance

## PERSONALISED THERAPY

in therapy selection & by the supporting products

## AUTOMATED BLADDER DIARY

for diagnosis and during therapy



## ADD-ON ELEMENTS

to support dysfunction specific training elements

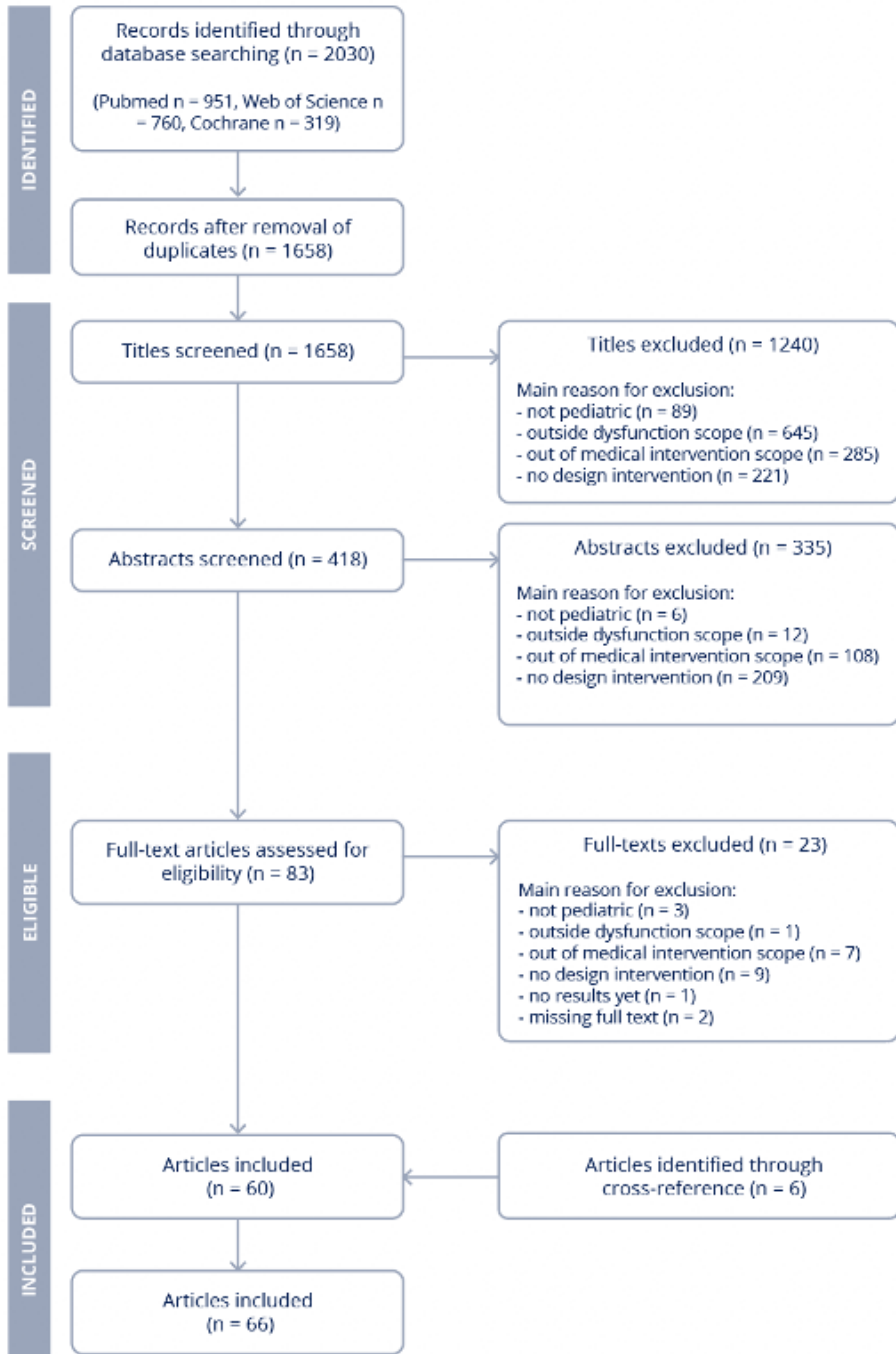
# Personalized urotherapy at home to improve the care pathway of children with lower urinary tract dysfunctions

- Scoping literature review
- Focus group / co-creation
- Randomized control crossover trial

# Scoping literature review

Design/innovation strategies





# Scoping literature review

- **Goal:** Map the various design/innovation strategies aimed at improving the patient pathway of children with LUTD.
- **Search strategy:** 4 search concepts were used and combined
  - Dysfunction descriptors
  - Therapy descriptors
  - Innovation strategy descriptors
  - Pediatric population descriptors
- **Sources:** Web of Science, Pubmed and Cochrane Library
- **Articles:** 2030 retrieved → 66 included (after screening and eligibility assessment)

# Scoping literature review

TYPE OF DYSFUNCTION	#	Patient experience as outcome
Nocturnal enuresis	19	8
Urinary incontinence	12	5
Dysfunctional voiding	9	2
Neurogenic LUTD	5	4
Functional LUTD	4	1
All types of LUTD	4	0
UTI	4	1
Pre-continent children with special needs	3	2
Bladder and bowel dysfunction	2	2
Overactive bladder / urge incontinence	2	0
Underactive bladder	1	0
Anatomical LUTD	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>25</b>

The majority of **innovation strategies targeted** children with nocturnal enuresis (N=19) and urinary incontinence generally (N=12).

# Scoping literature review

TYPE OF STUDY DESIGN	#	Patient experience as outcome
RCT	14	5
Validation	13	3
Quasi-experiment	9	3
Experimental n.c.	8	6
Type of review	6	0
Mixed methods	5	4
Retrospective study	4	1
Qualitative	3	3
Modelling	2	0
Case study	1	0
Design-based research	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>25</b>

- Most studies were **randomized controlled trials (N=14)** and **validation studies (N=13)**
- 37.8% (N=25) of studies evaluated **outcomes related to patient experience**, such as satisfaction, motivation and usability.

# Scoping literature review

**Mobile applications** digital  
voiding diaries, self-management

**Gamification**  
Voiding diary, urotherapy,...

**Biogames**  
animated biofeedback

**Reminder tools**  
Timer-watch (voiding & self-  
management), alarm, imitation tool

**NE alarm**  
Different design implementations

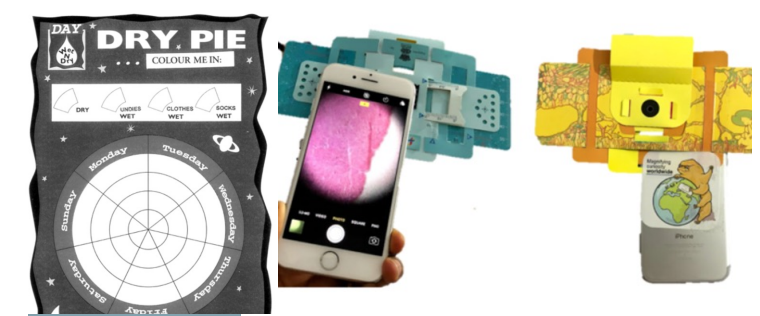
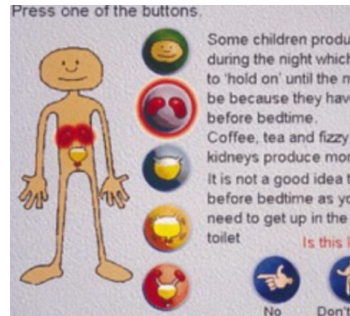
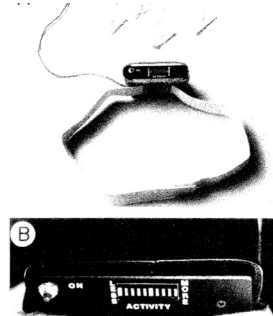
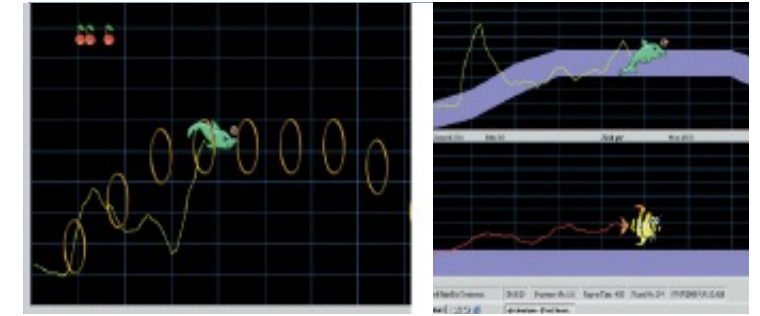
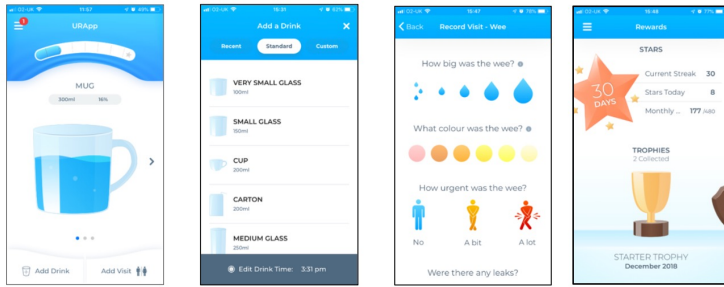
**Pre-void NE alarm**  
US bladder monitoring and  
physiological signals

**Home assessments**  
Uroflowmetry technologies, fluid  
intake, TENS, telehealth, AI

**Video / multimedia**  
enuresis, bladder training,  
preoperative, embodied  
conversational agent

**Educational tools**  
UTI clean-cath, daytime wetting  
workbook, new enuresis chart

# Scoping literature review



# Focus group

Urotherapy supporting products



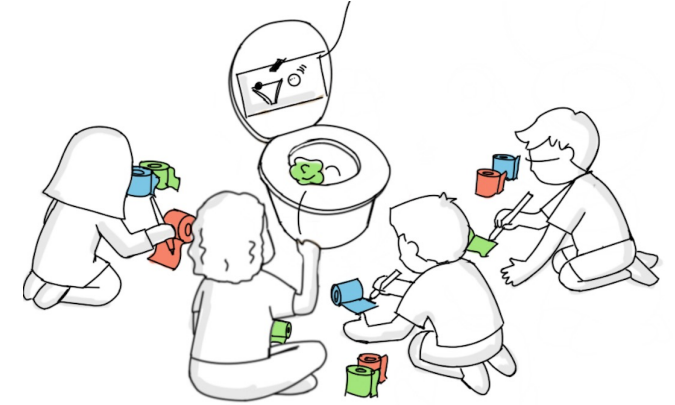


# Focus group

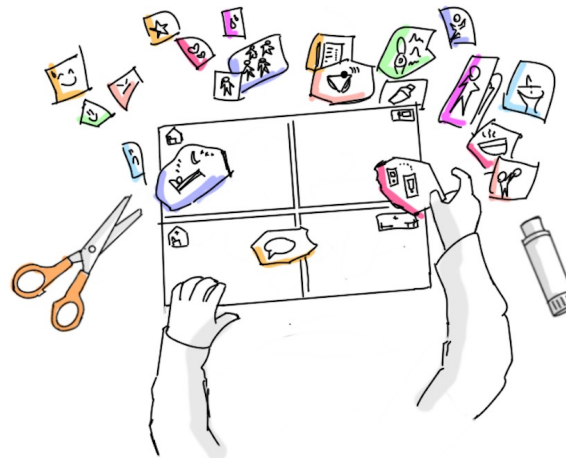
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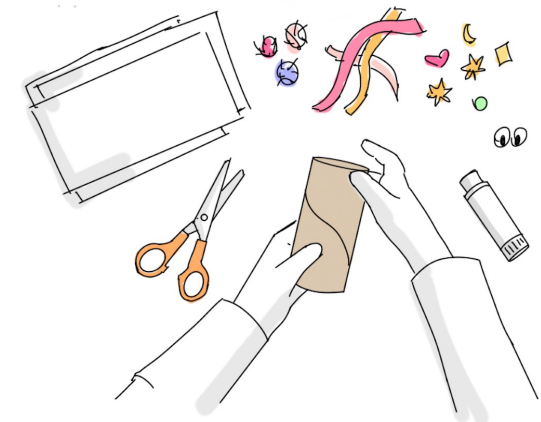
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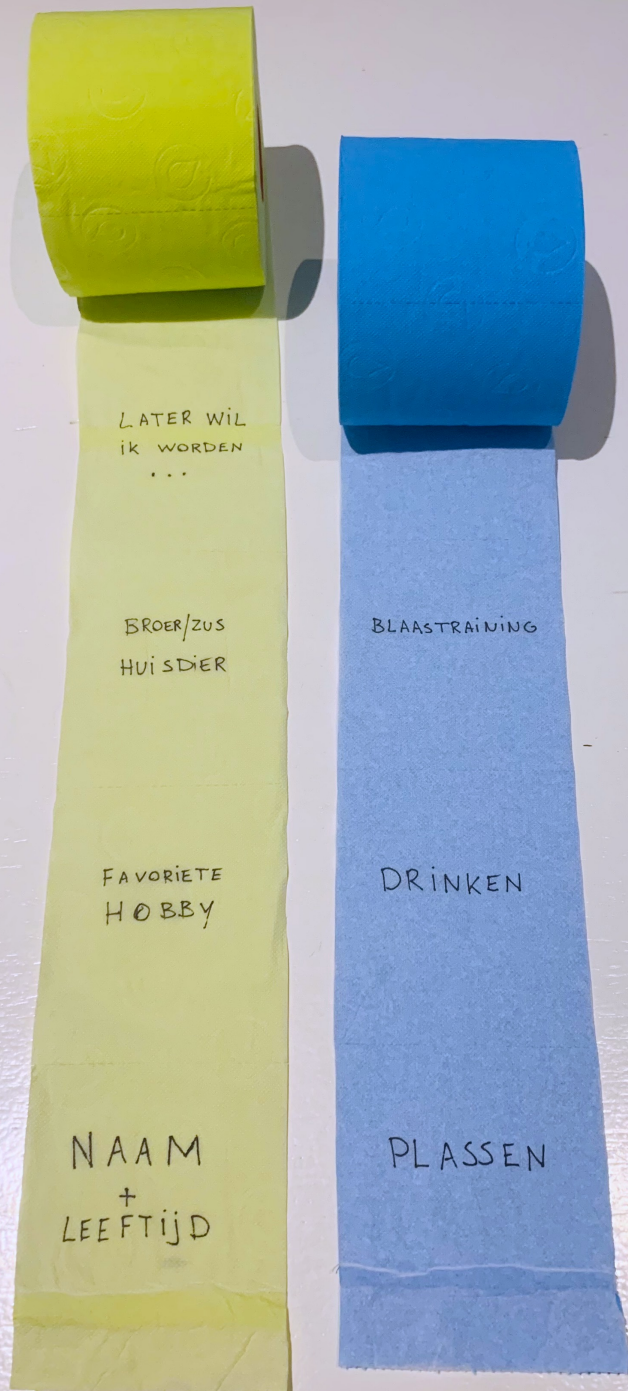


## 3. Collaging



## 4. Storyline character (hero)





# Focus group

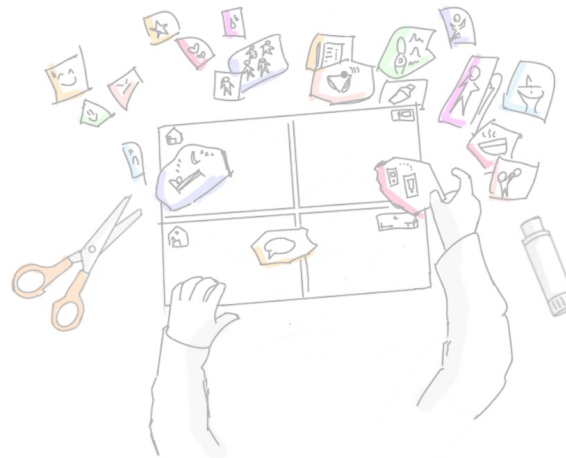
## 1. Icebreaker & warm up



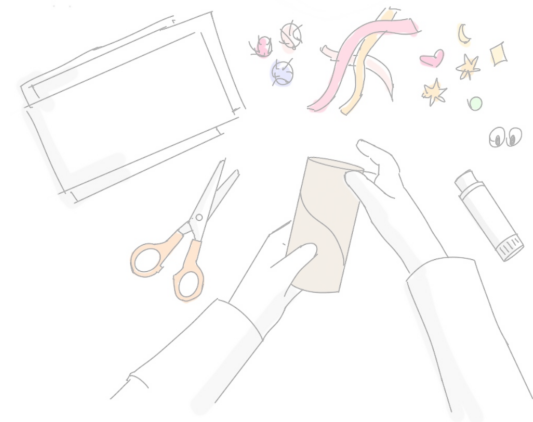
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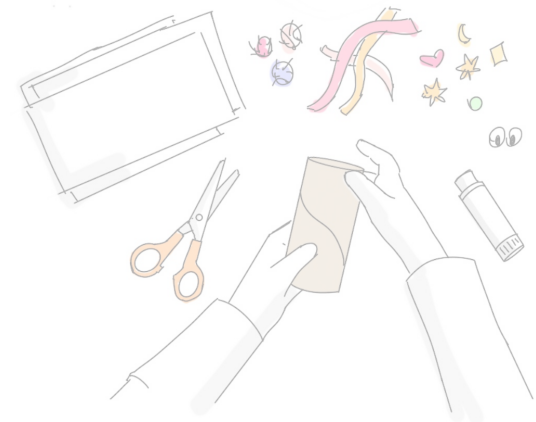


## 3. Collaging



## 4. Storyline character (hero)







# Focus group

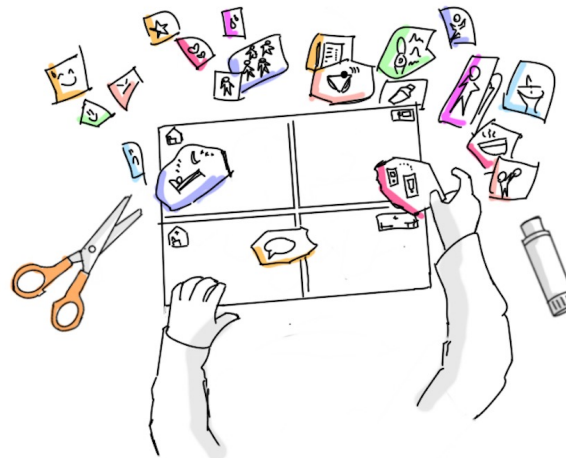
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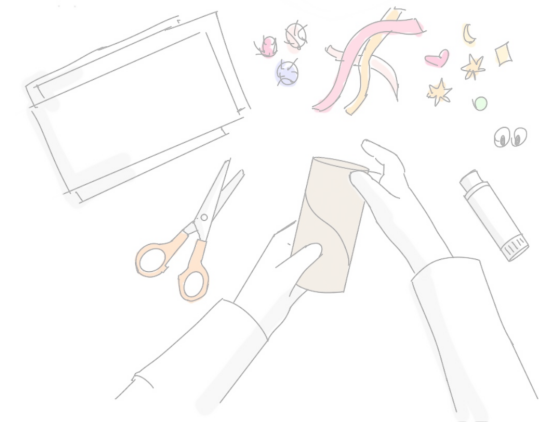
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## 3. Collaging

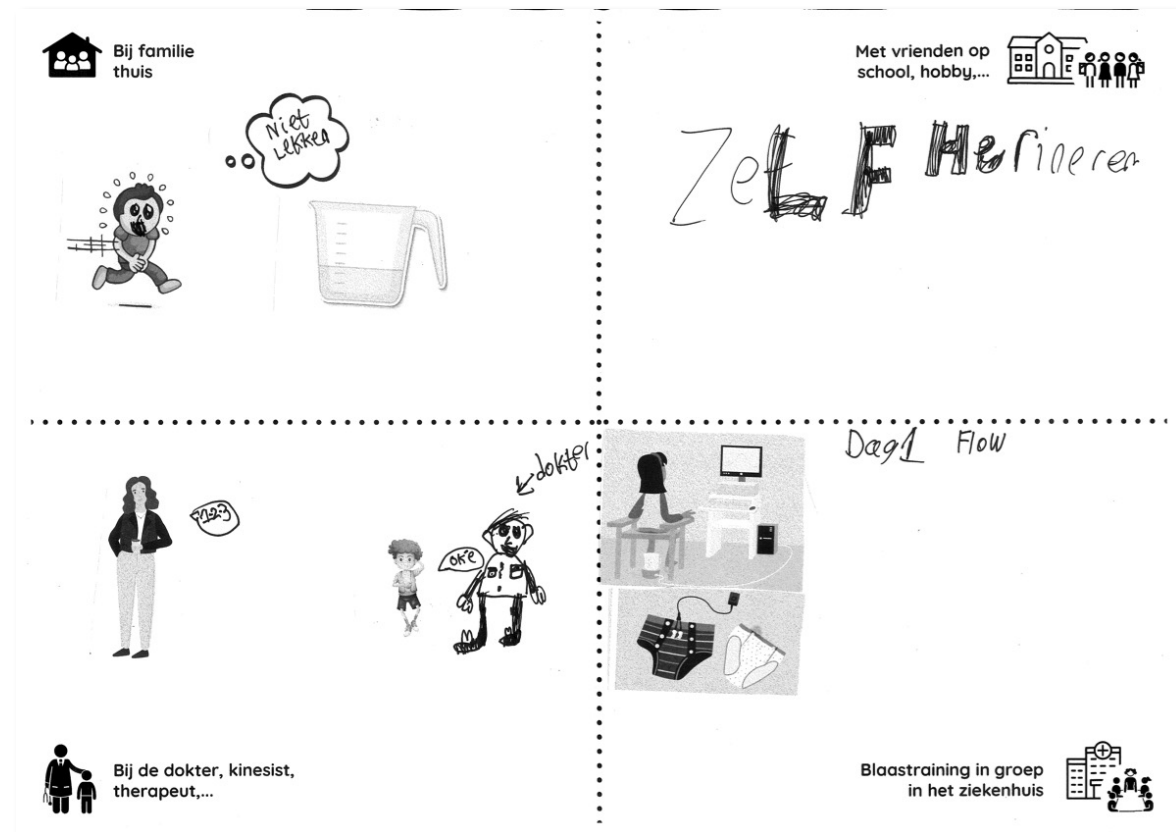


## 4. Storyline character (hero)



# Focus group

## Collaging





# Focus group

## 1. Icebreaker & warm up



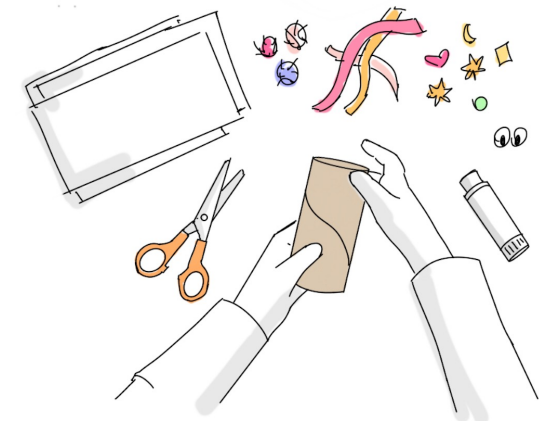
## 2. Anonymous pen and paper



## 3. Collaging



## 4. Storyline character (hero)

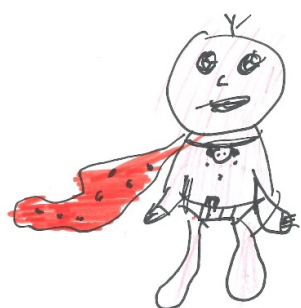


# Focus group

Storyline character (hero)



Mijn superheld(in)



← kapitein onderbroek



Mijn superheld(in)



Mijn superheld(in)

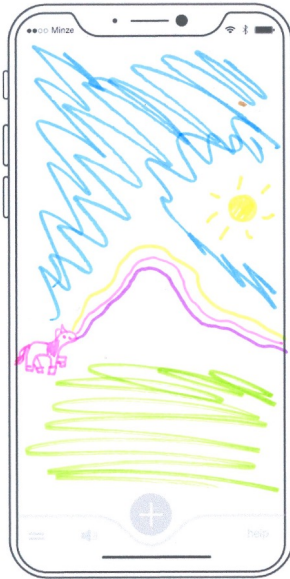
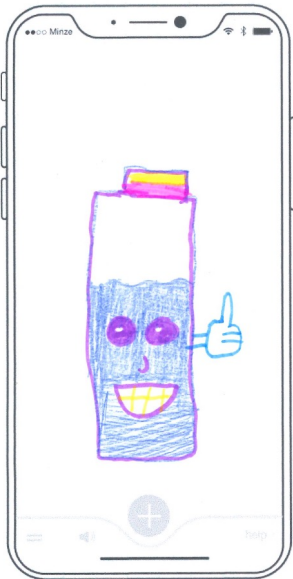


# Focus group

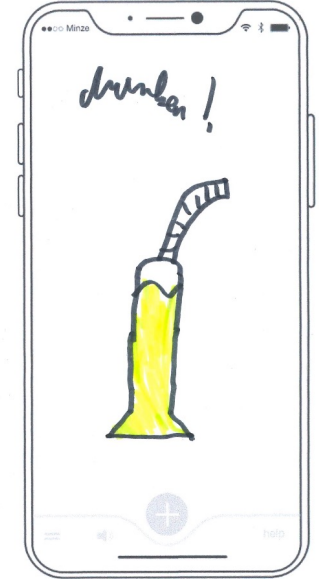
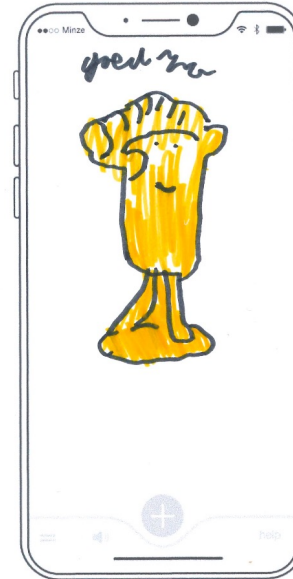
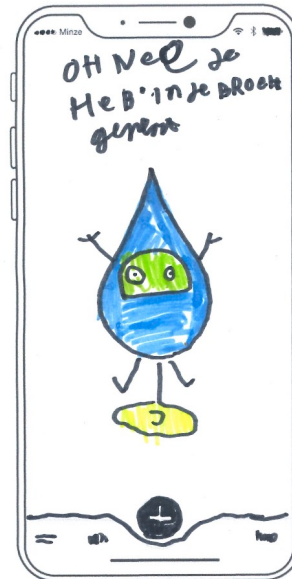
Storyline character (app avatar)



Mijn mascotte in de app



Mijn mascotte in de app



# RCT crossover

Bladder diary comparison

**Table 1** Comparison studies between electronic bladder diaries (eBD) and paper bladder diaries (pBD)

Author(s)	Year	Title	Type	Length	Participants	Conclusion
Rabin et al. [20]	1996	'Compu-void II': The computerized voiding diary	Dedicated device	7 days	Women with incontinence and pelvic floor dysfunctions (>18y)	They found in all subjects, the number of entries in the eBD exceeded the number made with the pBD, suggesting ( <i>according to them</i> ) increased patient compliance with the eBD. Moreover, the eBD was preferred by 98% of patients.
Quinn et al. [27]	2003	Assessment of an electronic daily diary in patients with overactive bladder,	Dedicated device	7 days	Patients with overactive bladder symptoms (>18y)	The number of daily voids was slightly lower for the eBD than for the pBD, yet the amount of urgency episodes was again higher. They concluded the eBD may reflect more accurate data, as 94% of patients found the eBD easy to use, it reflects real-time data entry and had no data errors (according to their definitions of errors).
Mangera et al. [28]	2014	Development of two electronic bladder diaries: A patient and healthcare professionals pilot study	Dedicated device	3 days and 1 extra overlapping day	Patients requiring a bladder diary (>8y)	They found a concordance of parameters on one overlapping day of only 50%. The number of daily voids and volumes was higher for the eBD than for the pBD, whereas the number of nocturnal voids and incontinence episodes were lower. They concluded that differences could be due to misunderstandings in completing either diary. However, the eBD was preferred by 81% of patients over the pBD.
Johnson et al. [29]	2014	Evaluation of a Mobile Voiding Diary for Pediatric Patients with Voiding Dysfunction: A Prospective Comparative Study	App	5 days	Pediatric patients with voiding dysfunctions (4-17y)	They found somewhat lower completion rates with the eBD than with the pBD. Data quality on the other hand was not clearly better for either version. Furthermore, they did not find differences between both diary formats on ease of use, both were found not difficult to complete; and on child participation, in slightly more than half of the cases the child participated in filling in the diary.
Abrams et al. [30]	2015	Electronic bladder diaries of differing duration versus a paper diary for data collection in overactive bladder	Dedicated device	3 days, 7 days and continuous	Patients with overactive bladder on a stable therapy (>18y)	They found compliance was generally high across all diary groups. However, they did find 7-day or continuous eBDs to be more reliable, in terms of consistency, for voids and incontinence frequency compared with shorter collection periods and pBDs.
Sussman et al. [31]	2016	Utilizing Technology in Assessment of Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms: A Randomized Trial of Electronic Versus Paper Voiding Diaries	App	3 days	Women with lower urinary tract symptoms (>18y)	They found a good degree of association between the two methods. However, the number of voids and incontinence episodes recorded with the eBD was lower compared to the pBD. Patients indicated the app to be difficult to use, potentially explaining the observed differences. Consequently, only approximately half of the patients preferred the eBD over the pBD, which is noticeably less than in other studies. Though 78% of patients reported they would prefer an electronic format if the app were improved.
Arrom et al. [33]	2018	Validation of a 3 day electronic bladder diary as an app for smartphone	App	3 days	Patients with overactive bladder or nocturia symptoms (>18y)	They found the eBD to be of high reliability (test-retest). Their results showed good agreement regarding the presence or absence of symptoms between both formats. Symptoms which showed lower agreements were the presence of nocturia or nocturnal polyuria. A possible explanation was that patients might find some difficulties in recording voids at night with an eBD as this could require a degree of wakefulness which could interfere with the sleep cycle. This is endorsed by the desire expressed by patients to support the possibility of backfilling. Nevertheless, 88% of patients would choose the eBD over the pBD if they had to repeat a bladder diary.

eBD: electronic bladder diaries; pBD: paper bladder diaries

# Randomized control crossover trial

Bladder diary comparison in pediatric patients (6-12y)



**Research aim** To compare an **automated bladder diary (autoBD)** to a **paper bladder diary (pBD)** on their:



## **Level of agreement** (Bland Altman)

What are the mean differences and the limits of agreement between the pBD and autoBD for key diary parameters.



## **Compliance** (survey & interviews)

Subjective compliance will be assessed using topics such as completeness, reliability, usefulness and child/parents' motivation.



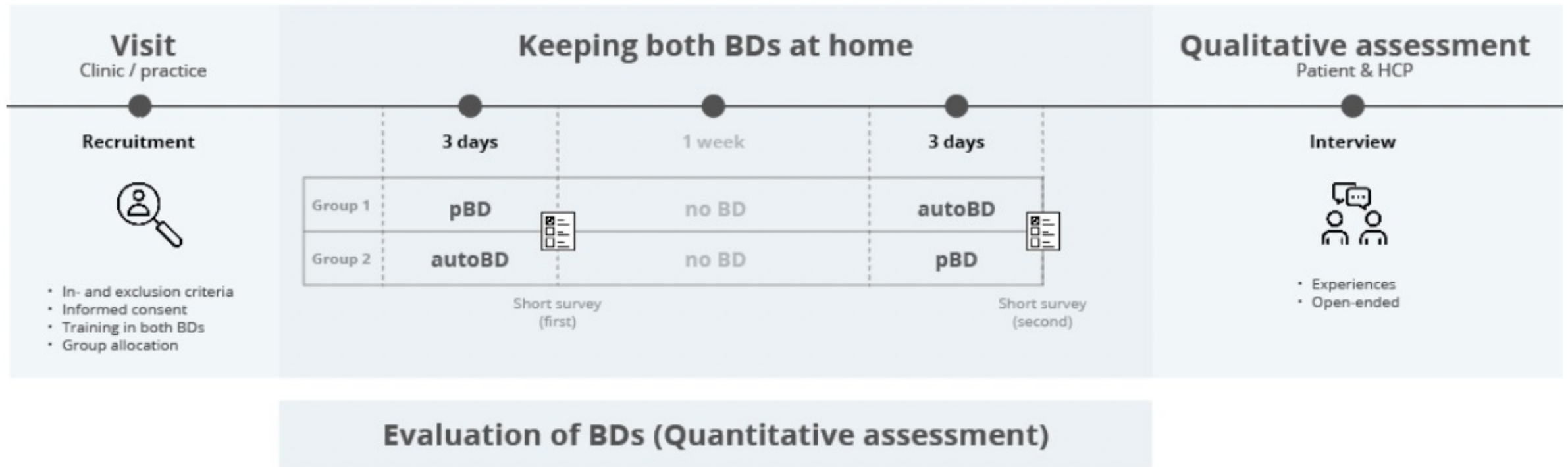
## **Satisfaction** (survey & interviews)

Preference, patient satisfaction (usability & ergonomics) and healthcare professional satisfaction (set-up & interpretations)

# Randomized control crossover trial

Bladder diary comparison in pediatric patients (6-12y)

**Study design** Mixed methods, randomized 2x2 crossover trial



# Thank you!

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