

CLAIMS:

1. An outlet valve for an ostomy appliance comprising: a valve base for attachment to a face of the ostomy appliance, the valve base defining a base opening for receiving a liquid output from the ostomy appliance; and an outlet element configured to be rotatable relative to the valve base from a closed configuration in which discharge of the liquid received through the base opening is prevented, to an open configuration in which discharge of the liquid received through the base opening is enabled; wherein the outlet element comprises a relatively rigid component rotatably attached to the valve base and a relatively flexible outlet tube portion affixed to the relatively rigid component.
2. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 1 wherein in the open configuration the relatively rigid component defines a fluid pathway between the base opening and the relatively flexible outlet tube portion.
3. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein in the open configuration the relatively rigid component is configured to receive liquid directly from the base opening and then deliver it to the relatively flexible outlet tube portion.
4. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the relatively rigid component has a tubular and generally L-shaped form.
5. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the relatively flexible outlet tube portion is over-moulded onto the relatively rigid component.
6. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the relatively rigid component comprises a protruding flange for gripping by the user in use.
7. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outlet element comprises an outlet tube, the outlet tube comprising the relatively flexible outlet tube portion.

8. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 7 wherein the relatively rigid component comprises an intake tube and a relatively rigid outlet tube portion, the relatively rigid outlet tube portion being affixed to the relatively flexible outlet tube portion.
- 5 9. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 8 wherein the intake tube and the outlet tube together define a continuous hollow bore for passage of the liquid from the intake opening to an outlet opening arranged at an end of the outlet tube distal to the intake tube.
- 10 10. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 9 wherein the outlet element has a generally L-shaped form, the intake tube optionally being arranged at an angle of substantially 90 degrees to the outlet tube.
- 15 11. An outlet valve as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10 wherein a housing protrudes from an outer face of the valve base, the housing defining a cylindrical bore, a portion of the intake tube being rotatably mounted with the cylindrical bore.
- 20 12. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the relatively flexible outlet tube portion is formed from a deformable material, wherein the deformable material is optionally resilient.
- 25 13. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the relatively rigid component is formed from a material having a Shore hardness of at least 50A.
- 30 14. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outlet element is rotatable about an axis of rotation arranged generally parallel to an attachment face of the valve base and generally horizontally in use.
- 35 15. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim configured for use with a relatively rigid connector having a connector diameter, the relatively flexible outlet tube portion having an outlet diameter marginally smaller than the connector diameter such that, on insertion of the relatively rigid connector into the relatively flexible outlet tube portion in use, the relatively flexible outlet tube portion flexes to accommodate the relatively rigid connector.

16. An outlet valve as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the valve base is formed of a material which is more rigid than the relatively flexible outlet tube portion and optionally which is less rigid than the relatively rigid component.

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17. An ostomy appliance comprising an outlet valve as claimed in any of claims 1 to 16.

18. An ostomy appliance as claimed in claim 17 wherein:

in the closed configuration the outlet element substantially overlies a cavity of the ostomy appliance; and

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in the open configuration at least a portion of the outlet element extends across a lower edge of the cavity of the ostomy appliance.