



# Designing a Stick to Skin Wearable for Scalable Production

There is a large discrepancy between medical design engineers and medical adhesive material suppliers and converters regarding how to bring a sleek conceptual design to scale. An experienced medical converter and adhesive materials supplier will help design and develop a concept that is both functional as well as manufacturable at scale. It is so important for medical design engineers to work with experienced suppliers who can give honest and reasonable feedback so that both parties are working toward designs that can be mass produced at scale, as well as at an affordable price.

When a wearable medical concept proves viable and begins its journey toward commercialization, it's crucial that the medical device company and its supplier partners (adhesive material manufacturers, converters and contract manufacturers) are ready to ramp up production. To ensure a smooth transition from prototyping into full-fledged production, there are key questions the OEM and suppliers should resolve as early as is feasible in product development, such as:

- Can every component in the wearable design be procured in mass quantities at acceptable price points?
- What high-speed manufacturing options are available to produce the wearable device materials?
- Do converter partners have enough capacity to meet forecasted demand?
- Is quality always being considered throughout the supply chain to ensure patient/ consumer safety?

Suppliers should be willing to engage in frank discussions with OEM partners about their ability to scale from prototyping to producing large volumes.

Wearable medical device development is a dynamic and always evolving area. There will always be the need for course corrections and fresh takes on device design. When medical companies partner with seasoned suppliers across multiple disciplines, they are much better equipped to move at the speed of digital health, staying a step ahead of the innovation curve.

**Reference: 1.** Prakash, Deepak. "Designing Wearables: How to Make Sense of Your Material Options." Medical Design & Outsourcing, 9 Mar. 2018, [www.medicaldesignandoutsourcing.com/designing-wearables-material-options/](http://www.medicaldesignandoutsourcing.com/designing-wearables-material-options/).

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