

Emptying a Colostomy Bag



PURPOSE: To empty waste product from a colostomy bag.

EQUIPMENT:

- 1. Gloves
- 2. Bedpan
- 3. Towel
- 4. Disposable cup of water
- 5. Wet washcloth

ACTION:

1. Explain the procedure (EG: Mr. Jones, I am Tim. I am going to empty your colostomy bag.)
2. Wash your hands and put your gloves on.
3. Place a towel underneath the pouch.
4. Place the bedpan next to the individual and under the pouch.
5. Remove clamp from bag and open end of bag.
6. Gently press the outside of the bag to force the waste out of the bag and into the bedpan.
7. If needed, pour a little water into the bag to rinse it out.
8. Take the washcloth and clean the outside and inner lip of the opening of the bag. Dry with an edge of the towel.
9. Fold the bottom of the bag up approximately 1 inch.
10. Place the clamp in the fold and then lock it in place.
11. Remove towel from bed.
12. Take the bedpan and empty it in the toilet. Rinse and dry.

Note: A colostomy bag should be emptied when it is 1/3 to 1/2 full or if air is inflating it.