PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING A COLOSTOMY/ILEOSTOMY BAG

PROCEDURE
1. Assemble equipment.
   - Water
   - Soap or skin cleanser solution
   - Soft cloth or gauze
   - Clean bag and belt, if needed
   - Skin barrier
   - Measuring guide, if needed
   - Disposable gloves
   - Tape, if needed
   - Scissors, if specified
   - Protective powder and paste, if used
2. Explain procedure at the student’s level of understanding.
3. Wash hands, put gloves on, and follow universal precautions.
4. Empty contents of bag into toilet.
5. Carefully remove the used bag and skin barrier by pushing the skin away from the bag, instead of pulling the bag off the skin.

POINTS TO REMEMBER
Per the Nevada State Board of Nursing Advisory Opinion, only a licensed nurse may change an ostomy bag. An unlicensed person may empty the device and provide skin care, as directed by the school nurse and LHCP.

Anticipating the tasks to be done, the risks involved, and the personal protective equipment needed will enhance protection of both the caregiver and student.

Each student should have a complete setup at school with a spare bag and clip/bag closure.

By encouraging the student to assist in the procedure, the caregiver helps the student achieve maximum self-care skills.

Report any change in stool pattern, skin irritation, or tolerance of procedure to the school nurse, or parent/guardian.

If there is skin irritation, check student-specific guidelines. Do not put medication, ointment, or adhesive on the damaged skin, but report skin irritation to the parent/guardian. A small amount of pinpoint bleeding may normally occur. If indicated, open the bag to allow in a small amount of air. Then seal the drain. If a belt is used to fasten bag, attach to bag.

Always use universal precautions.
PROCEDURE

6. Wash the stoma area using clean gauze and water. **Do not scrub.** Cover the stoma with gauze, then clean the skin around the stoma with soap and water.

7. Inspect skin for redness, rash, bleeding, or blistering.

8. Pat stoma and skin dry. Apply skin prep or protective powder around stoma if ordered. Brush excess powder off skin.

9. If a skin barrier is used that requires fitting, measure stoma per guidelines. Place skin barrier on skin around stoma.

10. Peel off backing from adhesive on the faceplate and apply paste, if needed.

11. Center the new bag directly over the stoma.

12. Firmly press the bag to the skin barrier so there are no wrinkles and no leaks.

13. Dispose of used bag and gauze in a double bag.

14. Remove gloves and wash hands.

15. Document the procedure in Healthmaster and Easy Trac, if applicable.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

If there is skin irritation, check student-specific guidelines. Do not put medication, ointment, or adhesive on the damaged skin. Report skin irritation. A small amount of pinpoint bleeding may normally occur.

Some systems use two pieces, where the ostomy bag and the faceplate can be separated. Others are one piece systems where the ostomy bag and faceplate are integrated.

If indicated, open the bag to allow in a small amount of air. Then seal the bottom. If a belt is used to fasten bag, attach to bag.

Report any change in stool pattern, skin irritation, or tolerance of procedure to the parent/guardian.

Dispose of soiled materials carefully.