

SKILL 27 **Emptying an Ostomy Pouch**

EQUIPMENT

Receptacle for stool
Syringe (or bulb syringe) to aspirate contents of pouch of very small infants
Tissue
Water
Gloves, nonsterile

DOCUMENTATION

1. Amount, color, and consistency of stool.

PROCEDURE

1. Gather equipment. *Promotes organization and efficiency.*
2. Explain procedure to child and family. *Enhances cooperation and participation and reduces anxiety and fear.*
3. Wash hands. Put on nonsterile gloves. *Reduces transmission of microorganisms and protects nurse from contact with body fluids.*
4. Open clamp or remove rubber band.
5. Empty contents into receptacle. Note amount, color, consistency, and the presence of any blood or mucus.
6. Rinse inside of pouch using small amount of water. (Optional). May use a small paper cup, squirt bottle, or syringe. Avoid stoma area. *Prevents premature loosening of skin seal.*
7. Wipe end of pouch with tissue and replace clamp or rubber band.
8. Dispose of stool in appropriate manner. *Consistent with body fluid precautions.*
9. Remove gloves. Wash hands. *Reduces transmission of microorganisms.*