

E-200 Ostomy Irrigation

Purpose

Empty the bowel of its contents.

Manage bowel elimination.

Prevent intestinal obstruction.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Ostomy pouch and skin barrier or stoma cap cover.
- Ostomy irrigation set that includes solution bag with fluid control clamp and cone tip.
- Irrigation sleeve with belt tabs or stick on ring and end closure device.
- Water-soluble lubricant.
- Warm tap water.
- Disposable gloves.
- Toilet facilities that include a flushable toilet, a hook or some device to hold irrigation container, toilet tissue and running water.
- Bedpan for clients who are unable to get to bathroom.
- Water proof pad.
- Ostomy deodorant

Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Position the client on the toilet, next to or in front of the toilet, or lying on his/her side in bed.
3. Don clean gloves.
4. Remove used pouch and appliance. Cleanse and dry stoma site following the *Ostomy Care* procedure.
5. Remove gloves and wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
6. Apply irrigation sleeve over stoma. Allow the tip of the sleeve to rest in the toilet or bedpan.

7. For adult clients, fill irrigation bag with 500 to 1000 ml of warm tap water. Clear the tubing of air and close the clamp. *The water temperature should not exceed 100 to 105 degrees Fahrenheit.*
8. Hang the bag approximately 18 inches above the stoma.
9. Lubricate tip of catheter and gently insert tube into stoma. If using a cone-tip catheter, hold it snugly against the stomal opening. *If the client complains of pain or if there is difficulty inserting the catheter, discontinue procedure and notify the physician.*
10. Open the clamp and allow water to flow in over a 5-to-10 minute period.
11. Return flow will drain out through the irrigation sleeve.
12. Allow 15 to 20 minutes for the initial return. If desired, the client can fold up the tip of the sleeve, clamp it at bottom, and ambulate for approximately 30 minutes. *Massaging the abdomen may also assist in the process.*
13. Unclamp sleeve and remove any additional fecal material.
14. Remove sleeve.
15. Apply new appliance following the *Ostomy Care* procedure.
16. Clean irrigation sleeve and equipment with liquid cleanser and cool water according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy. Hang sleeve to dry.
17. Remove gloves and wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record:

1. Procedure performed.
2. Time began; time completed.
3. Type and amount of solution instilled.
4. Characteristics of return flow.
5. Skin condition.
6. Reapplication of appliance.
7. Pain during procedure or difficulty inserting catheter, if applicable.

Pediatric Considerations

Irrigations to regulate bowel movements are usually not done for pediatric clients. May be done for clean out purposes for pediatric clients with Hirschsprung's disease.

Amount of irrigation solution differs from adults. Physician orders the amount to use based on the client's weight and size.

Related Procedures

Ostomy Care

Policy History

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