

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. A mucous fistula is an opening on the abdomen that leads to the resting portion of the intestine. A normal function of the intestine is to secrete mucus.
2. Consult the WOCN or physician if odor is heavy or drainage requires more than one dressing per day.

EQUIPMENT:

Gloves

Non-sterile dressing; i.e., gauze, tissues, paper towels, sanitary pad, small piece of cloth

Petroleum jelly, optional

Paper tape

Basin of warm water and soft, clean cloths

Impervious bag

PROCEDURE:

1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Explain procedure to patient/caregiver.
3. Remove old dressing.
4. Cleanse mucous fistula and surrounding skin with warm water; pat dry. This can be done when patient showers.
5. Apply small amount of petroleum jelly to fistula, if necessary, to prevent dryness.
6. Place non-sterile dressing against the mucous fistula and secure edges with paper tape.
7. Discard soiled supplies in appropriate containers.

AFTER CARE:

1. Document in patient's record:
 - a. Procedure and observations
 - b. Patient's response to procedure
 - c. Instructions given to patient/caregiver

Adopted VNAA; Approved Policy Committee 01/14/14