

**Antelope Valley Union High School District  
Colostomy Procedures**

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| <p><b>Colostomy</b><br/>A surgical opening through the abdominal wall into the large intestine to drain stool.<br/>A urostomy is an opening into the bladder to drain urine.</p>   |   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>This procedure <i>always</i> requires a physician order and training by the District Nurse</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>What are the common reasons for a colostomy?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disease such as cancer, Crohn's or diverticulosis</li> <li>• Nerve, muscle, or structural abnormality in the intestinal system</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b>Supplies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gloves</li> <li>• Colostomy bag with clips,</li> <li>• Adhesive seal, templates, and skin barrier</li> <li>• Skin care items to protect the skin</li> </ul>  | <p><b>What does it look like?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stoma (opening at skin) should be pink without blood</li> <li>• Stool should have a normal color</li> <li>• Stool should have a normal odor</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Procedure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Read and follow physician orders. Wash hands before assembling supplies.</li> <li>□ Remove only enough clothing to perform the procedure. Put on gloves.</li> <li>□ Position student on changing table, chair, or toilet, gently remove bag, and empty the stool contents from the bag into the toilet. (Remove and replace bag only if indicated by the District Nurse.)</li> <li>□ Inspect the bag on the skin to be sure there is no leaking which is very irritating to the skin.</li> <li>□ If there is no leaking from the bag, reseal the bottom of the bag &amp; clip it closed completely.</li> <li>□ <u>If the bag is not attached well or if there is leaking, the bag and seal will need to be replaced.</u><br/>Remove the bag by pushing skin away (instead of pulling at the bag). Put the bag in a plastic lined trash can. Look at the stoma and skin around the area. Clean with soap and water. Pat it dry with toilet paper or gauze. Measure the stoma and cut a new seal to fit 1/8<sup>th</sup> to 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch larger than the stoma. Put adhesive or skin barrier onto the skin around the stoma making sure there are no wrinkles. Put a new bag onto the skin barrier or seal and make sure that it does not press on stoma.</li> <li>□ If there is no stool, but the bag contains excessive air, remove the clip and expel the air, then close the bag using the clip provided.</li> <li>□ Remove gloves and assist the student to redress and return to school activities.</li> <li>□ Put supplies away. Wash hands and document what was done on the Student Log form.</li> <li>□ Report any unusual changes to the parent and District Nurse.</li> </ul> |   |
| <p><b>Abnormal signs of infection or cause for concern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of blood in stool or around stoma</li> <li>• Change in stool consistency or color</li> <li>• Skin redness, rash, lesions or blistering on skin</li> <li>• Red, purple, or unusual color of stoma</li> <li>• Irritability, anxiety, and / or presence of unusual behavior</li> </ul>   |   |

**Revised 2008**