

# PATIENT & FAMILY EDUCATION

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## A few important words about your Stool Management System

Your doctor has ordered an Indwelling Stool Management System (SMS) for you or a member of your family. This device is used to collect stool and control diarrhea in patients who can not control their bowel movements, and/or are unable to get out of bed and use the toilet. The goals are to treat the cause of diarrhea and if possible, prevent any injury to the skin. To accomplish this, the device can be left in place for up to 29 days.

There are many causes for liquid stool or diarrhea. Some medications, illnesses and physical conditions can cause diarrhea. Another cause among patients in the hospital is a stool infection. Infection can be caused by antibiotics used to treat other illnesses. In this case the stool often has a strong odor. If you or your family member has infection triggered diarrhea, the nurse may ask that you take special care not to spread the infection. This can include proper hand washing with soap and water or wearing gown and gloves. Your doctor may use this device to contain the stool to help prevent the spread of infection to others entering the room.

The SMS is gently inserted into the rectum and a soft cuff is filled with water to help keep it in place. The liquid stool drains through the tubing into a collection bag. To keep the tubing open, the nurse can attach a water filled syringe to start a built-in "sprinkler" system. This helps keep the liquid stool moving into the collection bag when necessary. The collection bags are changed as needed. By holding liquid stool inside the tubing and collection bag it helps to reduce odor and improve patient convenience and preserve patient dignity.

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After the Stool Management System (SMS) is inserted, the nurse will check on the device often to be sure it is in place, that it is working properly and for changes in your stool and other conditions to be sure the device is still needed.

## Care of the device includes:

- Check the cuff fill volume periodically to ensure 45ml fill
- Irrigate tubing with water to keep tubing clear
- Positioning tubing to prevent kinking, twisting or tugging
- Flushing catheter tubing using purple flush port as needed to prevent catheter blockage
- Checking collection bag and replacing as needed
- Keeping the collection bag below patient hips and off the floor
- Routine care of the skin around the anus to ensure that it is clean and dry
- Washing hands before and after handling device
- Stool sampling as needed
- Medications may also be administered through the device

## Notify your nurse if:

- Device has moved out of appropriate position
- Stool is leaking around the cuff or strong odor noted
- Tubing is kinked, twisted or tugging
- Catheter tubing is obstructed
- Collection bag is full
- Stool starts to become thick and formed
- Device has been in place for longer than 29 days
- Any rectal pain, bleeding, redness or skin irritation
- Swelling/bloating of abdomen

If you have further questions about proper SMS care, especially if this device needs to remain in place when your care is transferred to another facility outside of the hospital, be sure to ask your doctor or nurse.

Please consult product label and insert for any indications, contraindications, hazards, warnings, cautions and directions for use.

Physician Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



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