



Home Medical Equipment: Ostomy Supplies

The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! After graduation from the NICU, your baby will need special home medical equipment (also called durable medical equipment) to help keep him or her well.

Why does my baby need this equipment?

- Your baby has a stoma (also called *ileostomy* or *colostomy opening*) on his or her belly that lets fecal waste (poop/stool) leave the intestine.
- An *ostomy bag* (also called a *pouch*) covers the stoma and collects the waste.

Vendor Information

A company, also called a vendor, will bring the equipment to your home and teach you how to use and manage any problems with the equipment that may arise.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Other Emergency Numbers: _____

Important Things to Remember

- Get together all needed supplies before starting ostomy care (emptying or changing pouch).
- Wash your hands.
- Follow the package directions to ready the pouch and skin barrier to put on your baby.
- Wear gloves during ostomy care.
- Place your baby on his or her back.
- Warm the skin barrier by placing it under your baby while you prepare his or her skin.
- Gently take off the old ostomy bag. (If needed, use a warm, damp cloth to loosen stickiness.)
- Clean the skin around the stoma with warm water only. Your baby's skin is delicate, so avoid use of products that contain powder or alcohol.
- Dry skin well with a clean, soft towel.
- Check your baby's skin for color, breakdown, and signs of infection. (Is it swollen, firm, or tender to touch? Is there any redness or a rash?) Check the stoma to see if it is getting larger or smaller. Call your baby's care provider if you're worried.
- Follow the package directions to put on the new stoma bag and close the clamp.
- Empty the old bag into the toilet or diaper pail.
- Take off gloves and wash your hands.
- You may be nervous at first, but with practice, you will become more comfortable using the equipment. It's always OK to ask for help! Make sure you ask your baby's healthcare provider who you can call for help, questions, and concerns.

The above information is to help you better understand your baby's care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby's health-care provider and ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.

Online Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Healthy Children
www.healthychildren.org

Kids Health
www.kidshealth.org