



*This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful, and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.*

## **Ostomy Care**

*A stoma is an opening in the abdominal area that is surgically made to change the usual pathway for stool or urine to be eliminated from the body.*

The PSW may assist the person(s) with an ostomy in handing the person(s) the ostomy equipment the person(s) needs to perform their own ostomy care. The UCP may then assist the person(s) in the cleanup of equipment and the surrounding area. The PSW may also perform ostomy care on a person(s) who cannot for any reason perform their own ostomy care.

The PSW may empty and change ostomy bags, the PSW will have been taught this procedure in obtaining their PSW certification. If the PSW for some reason has not been taught this procedure, they must be taught and then demonstrated the proper technique for this type of procedure by the RN / RPN.

The RN / RPN must teach the importance of proper skin care around the stoma and how to prevent skin breakdown with proper cleansing and well fitted stoma bags to prevent leaking of feces. The RN/RPN may also instruct the PSW on the skill and technique of changing the complete one- and two-piece systems that may be used.

**PSW – Personal Support Worker**

**RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse**

**RHPA – Regulated Health Professions Act**

**Resources - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition**