

# LENDING A HAND FOR LITTLE ONES WITH A LEAK

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## Introduction

Around 80% of paediatric stomas are formed within the first six weeks of life (Parry 1998). This is of particular concern with babies and younger children as a child's skin is more fragile than that of an adult's.

The role of the stoma nurse is to support both ward staff and parents by providing teaching and practical advice to help prevent fragile skin becoming sore from a leaking pouch.

This poster has been developed as an eye catching quick reference tool to be displayed to ward based staff highlighting possible considerations for the management of leaking stoma pouches in the absence of a stoma nurse.

- Leakage can lead to:**
- Sore skin
  - Distress
  - Risk of infection
  - Baby becoming unwell

## Conclusion

Johnson and Breckman (2005) observe that there are few paediatric stoma care nurses (SCN) and suggest that paediatric nurses and stoma care specialists who are not paediatric nurses need to combine knowledge and expertise to ensure parents and children have access to knowledgeable, skilled stoma care within the paediatric system.

In consultation with ward staff, parents and SCN colleagues, a poster was developed as an eye-catching reference tool to be displayed for paediatric ward based staff. It highlights considerations for the management of leaking stoma pouches in the absence of the SCN. The poster contains evidence based examples of such care e.g. Cutting (2006) identifies the importance of a correctly fitted pouch and to ensure that parents, children and nursing staff are aware of the importance of drying the skin before applying the new pouch to aid adhesion.



## Next steps:

- Pre-poster questionnaire to establish ward based staff knowledge of common stoma problems and management.
- Present poster as a working tool to aid knowledge at ward based team meetings.
- Trial for an agreed period to ensure all staff have opportunity to use suggested guidance in practice.
- Post poster questionnaire to see if knowledge and skills of ward staff have increased.
- The effectiveness of this tool will be audited with the possibility of a simple booklet developed for parents as a support tool and roll out of poster to all paediatric areas both locally and nationally.



References

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