# IMPROVING OSTOMY PATIENT EDUCATION

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## ABSTRACT

Due to shorter postoperative stays for patients with new fecal and urinary diversions, optimizing an education pathway for new ostomates is essential. MUSC’s educational booklet was in need of updating to meet these needs. A multitude of educational materials was available for use.

## METHODS

MUSC WOC Nursing department reviewed a variety of current education material available. The need for early initiation of teaching and a single tool for all settings was noted. Current use of “Get Well Network” (GWN) for instructional videos was considered beneficial for patient teaching. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) Home Skills Kit was chosen as the tool of choice. Arrangements were made with the ACS to have access to the kits for pre-op and inpatient use. Permission was obtained to utilize the ACS educational videos on the MUSC GWN. Pertinent clinics were notified of the change in material and WOC Nurses incorporated the tool into their practice.

## RESULTS

- Universal kit for all patients along continuum
- Patient reported satisfaction with Home Skills Kit
- Allows for remote assignment of educational videos to patients room TV
- Ability to monitor completed video education modules via Get Well Network
- Appropriate for literate and illiterate patients
- Cost effective solution

## CONCLUSIONS

- All new ostomy patients should receive the ACS Home Skills Kit as early in the treatment course as possible
- WOC Nursing professionals should work to have ACS Home Skills Kits be the standard of care nationwide for ostomy education allowing for ease of transition from practice setting to practice setting along the continuum of care

## SUMMARY

Numerous ostomy education materials are available for new ostomates today. MUSC initiated the ACS Home Skills Kit to provide standardized, cost effective and comprehensive ostomy care and education. The kits have provided an improvement in patient/family education as well as a reduction in educational costs.

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