Background:
• 100,000 ostomy surgeries annually in the US.
• 725,000-1,000,000 ostomates in the US
• Patients frequently come to the hospital with either no supplies or an insufficient amount.

Topic:
• Frequent complaints from patients stating “The nurses don’t know how to take care of my ostomy.”
• Unnecessary consults for the WOC Nurse group because the staff did not know what to order or how to order supplies.
• Decreased patient satisfaction due to leakage. WOC Nurse was able to see pt immediately.
• Ostomy supplies are not stocked on the supply carts on the adult inpatient floors.
• Poor use of resources, time management of the WOC nurses.

Objectives:
• Educate the nursing staff on basic ostomy care.
• Provide quick and easy tools to effectively care for existing ostomates.
• Appropriate use of WOC nurse consults for ostomates experiencing leaking, skin issues, education.
• Nursing to provide competent ostomy care and critical thinking skills in reference to the need for a WOC nurse consult.

Purpose:
• Have most commonly used ostomy products available on each adult inpatient unit.
• Algorithm to help nurses determine what products are needed for the stoma type.
• Step by step instructions for ostomy care.
• Create an atmosphere of autonomy for the nurses.
• Limit unnecessary consults for the WOC nurses creating the time needed for educating new ostomies and existing ostomates that are experiencing challenges.
• Cost containment by using the correct supplies the first time.

Implementation:
Supply boxes are kept in a central location on all adult inpatient areas. The boxes contain the following:
• The most common supplies needed for basic ostomy care.
• Step by step Instructions for an ostomy appliance change.
• An algorithm for choosing the correct supplies based on the stoma (protruding or recessed) and effluent type.
• Supply numbers to order additional supplies from the central supply store.

Interactive ostomy education is provided for established nurses and recently licensed nurses periodically.

Ostomy Information provided in quarterly nursing newsletter for facility.