



Standard of Practice

Bowel Care

This standard of practice is to support the CSW 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 CSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Bowel Care

The act of facilitating bowel elimination.

This may include the assistance of a person(s) with bowel routine, toileting, care of person(s) with bowel and continence issues using incontinence products, in some circumstances suppositories or enemas^{1*} and digital stimulation as delegated by a Regulated Health Care Professional.

If the person(s) is unable to take care of their own bathroom needs or requires assistance to use incontinence products such as putting on and taking off products and garments, then the person(s) would require a Care Support Worker.

Assistance with bowel care may be performed by a CSW if the bowel care includes assisting the person(s) with bed pans, transfers to and from the bathroom or commode and changing clothing, undergarments and pads in the course of incontinent care.

The CSW may assist the person(s) using a suppository or enema. If a person(s) is unable to administer their own enema, a CSW may only perform this only if the CSW has been properly trained and delegated this procedure by an RN, RPN, DN, RM and as per the GP guidelines.

¹ Delegation for enema and suppository administration is a delegated act.

The CSW may assist the person(s) with a stoma². In handing the person(s) Ostomy equipment the person(s) needs to perform their own Ostomy care.

The CSW may then assist the person(s) in the cleanup of equipment and the surrounding area. The CSW may also perform Ostomy care on a person(s) who cannot for any reason perform their own care.

A CSW will never insert a finger, medication or instrument beyond the opening of the stoma.

The CSW may empty and change Ostomy bags as taught in CSW Infection Control certification. If the CSW for some reason has not been taught this procedure, then they must be taught and demonstrated the proper technique for this type of procedure by the appropriate health professional

The CSW must be taught, 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 faeces.

The health professional would need to document the CSW training and competency.

The CSW can be engaged in changing the wafer that is applied to the skin to adhere an Ostomy bag in place. The CSW may assist with transfers to the commode or bathroom if the person(s) requires the use a hoist or Transfer Board or steady for the transfer.

The CSW may perform anal stimulation, enema administration if the CSW has been delegated and it is a part of the person(s) Care Plan

² A stoma is an opening in the abdominal area that is surgically made to change the usual pathway for stool to be eliminated from the body.

SW – Personal Support Worker

RN/RPN – Registered Nurse/ Registered Practical Nurse

DN – District Nurse

RM – Registered Manager

GP – General Practitioner