





TROUBLESHOOTING Ostomy Bag Leaks



Types of Stomas

- End ileostomy: usually pretty easy to pouch. Most patients like a flat, one piece drainable and change once a week
 - Loop ileostomy: most challenging to pouch because of the efferent loop that pulls the os inferior, lots of issues with leakage if not made well. Almost always uses a two piece, convex bag with a belt
 - Colostomy: lots of options to make this work. Most patients will end up in a two piece, flat closed end system with a COLOMAJIC flushable liner. Or they will do irrigation.
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Leaking Basics

Change the bag

Leaks are caused by one thing: the wrong bag.
Change the bag = fix the leak

- Leaking is very common. It can be extreme with unexpected accidents. It can be annoying with burning and smell only. It can be subtle with only skin breakdown noticed when changing the bag.
- Bottom line: **leaking should not be tolerated**. It will ruin the skin. It will ruin the patient's life. Do not give up on the patient. Keep trying
- The job of any stoma expert is to know the brands, bags and appliances that work for the kind of problem the patient is having
- Rings, paste, nystatin, stoma powder, skin shields: all of this is to bridge a bad bag. Try to change the bag first and then add these on if it is not working



Remember: change the bag.

- The answer for skin breakdown is NOT medicine or powder
 - Do not rely on crusting and nystatin to take care of the skin. It is a stop gap measure only
- BASIC RULES FOR LEAKS:
 - CONVEX + BELT: This is the absolute basic approach to leaks. If someone shows up with skin breakdown, do this first
 - YES! They MUST WEAR THE BELT
 - Start with light convex options (coloplast and convatek have options)
 - Move up to deep convex (again coloplast and convatek have options)
 - If still not working consider Nu-Hope or other unusual options

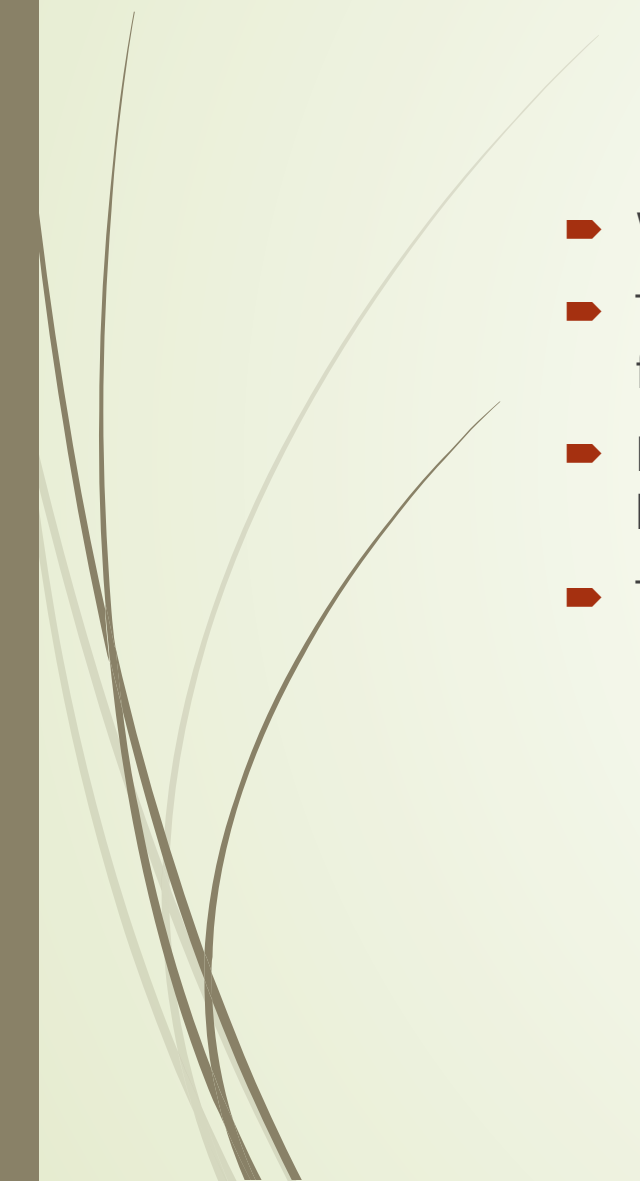


Basic Interventions for Leaks

- Remove the bag and evaluate the affected skin
 - **Red/macerated around the edge of the stoma only?** Measure the stoma again and make sure that they are cutting to the right size. Add a ring to the base of the stoma and make sure they are putting it ON THE SKIN and not on the bag
 - **Red/scaly/irritated along the tape edge?** You can bet they are in the Hollister bag and reacting to the tape, so change the bag to another brand.
 - **Irregular redness at the base of stoma extending out under flange too?** Now you have a problem. This is a real leak and you need to work with them to change the bag and upgrade their appliance. Make sure they are wearing the belt!
- Yes, treat the skin with crusting!
 - If the skin is red and messy, crust! Use the stoma powder and skin prep to help. But do not rely on this to treat the underlying issue
 - If the skin is flaky and scaly, treat with Nystatin, but again do not over-rely on medicine to treat the skin! This is a stop gap measure only



Treating leaks: A step wise approach

- What follows is a step-wise approach to treating leaks.
 - This comes from personal experience only. You will learn what works best for you and your patients.
 - Remember: a good stoma nurse knows the bags and brands. You should be able, over time, to look at an abdomen and know what bag will work
 - Try things out and learn from your patients
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OSTOMY BAG LEAKS

Step 1



- 2 Piece Convex Coloplast bag
- Belt

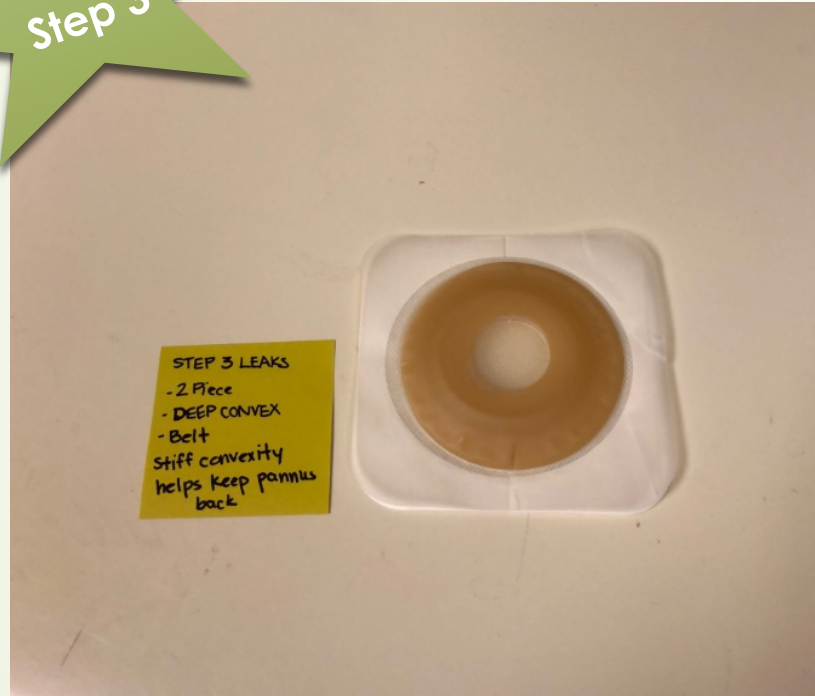
Step 2



- Flex Esteem Convatec bag
- Belt
- Great for bad skin, big belly, & leaks
 - *least allergic, sensitive wax back, flexible, good for leaks*

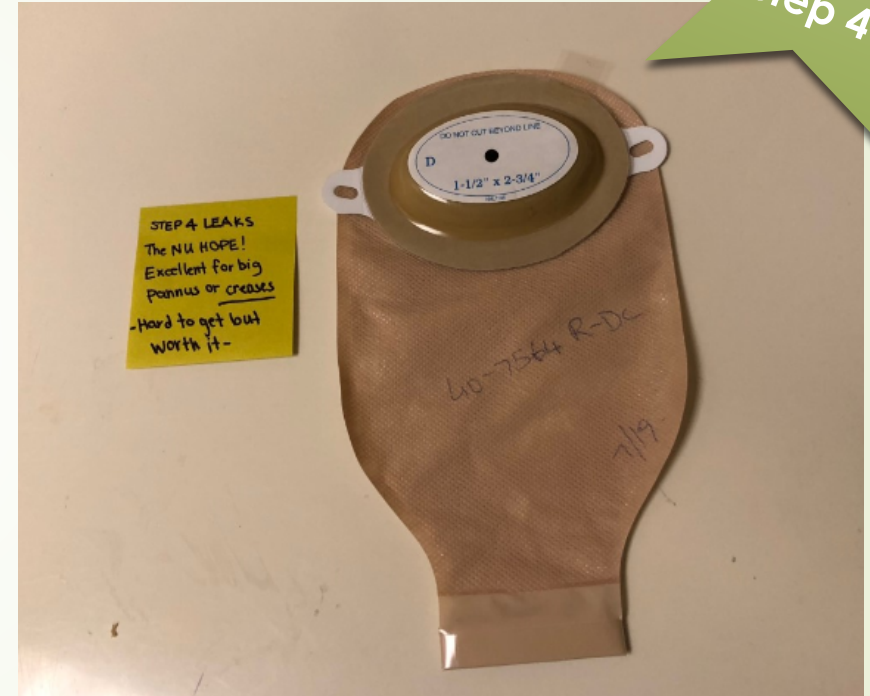
OSTOMY BAG LEAKS

Step 3



- 2 Piece DEEP Convex bag
- Belt
 - *stiff convexity helps keep pannus back

Step 4



- NU HOPE bag
- Belt
 - * EXCELLENT for BIG pannus or Creases
 - * Hard to get but worth it

Final work on leaks

	Coloplast	Hollister	Convatek	Nu-Hope
Flat abdomen, no leakage	Sensura mio flat drainable great option. Perfect for an ileostomy	??? Get them out of Hollister unless they love the bag	Two piece moldable Consider accordian flange Consider one piece moldable	Not needed
Flat abdomen, leakage	Sensura mio, two piece, LIGHT convex, belt	??? You can try convex two piece if you want too	Moldable two piece with belt, LIGHT convex	Not needed
Abdominal folds, no leakage	Sensura mio, two piece, light or deep convex, belt, ring	Flexible convex one piece drainable	Flex esteem convex drainable (used to be stomacur brand but convatek bought them out)	Not needed
Abdominal folds, leakage				Oval, deep convex with a belt
Abdominal folds, lots of loose, soft tissue that is easily pushed back		Hollister two piece convex	Moldable, deep convex flange This is a hard flange that can push back the extra skin. The moldable opening is great too for turtlenecking stomas. Consider the accordion flange too that is easier to snap the bag onto	
Abdominal folds, leakage, abdomen with harder adipose tissue not easily reduced	Flexible two piece sensura mio deep convex with ring and belt	None	Flex esteem	Oval, deep convex Best bet for this kind of abdomen an leakage