Adult Bladder and Bowel Dysfunction Protocol

Bowel Dysfunction

Bowel Dysfunction Protocol: assessment, diagnosis, treatment and management

Relevant national guidelines

Red flags for colorectal cancer (high risk features) for bowel assessment

NHS Lothian guidelines

- Summary of factors that can cause/contribute to bowel dysfunction and their management
- Constipation – management of acute constipation and chronic constipation
- Faecal incontinence – management of faecal incontinence
- Diarrhoea – management of acute diarrhoea and chronic diarrhoea
- Faecal loading/impaction - management of faecal loading/impaction
- Bowel irrigation pathway

Assessment and care planning

- Neurogenic bowel dysfunction
- Autonomic dysflexia (AD)
- Who can establish a neurogenic bowel management programme?
- Establishing a neurogenic bowel management programme
- Diet and fluid intake
- Drugs that can cause constipation and diarrhoea
- Information on common types of medication for bowel management
- Documentation (charts, Bristol stool form scale, bowel irrigation)
- Leaflets

Bowel procedures

- Digital rectal examination (DRE)
- Administration of laxative suppositories
- Administration of laxative micro-enemas
- Digital removal of faeces (DRF)
- Digital rectal stimulation (DRS)

Onward referral

- Referrals to healthcare professionals