

● SKILL SNAPSHOT

Purpose

- Noninvasively wicks urine from the female perineum into a suction collection canister.

When to use

- Female urinary incontinence when an external device is appropriate and accurate sterile urine measurement is not required.

Supplies needed

- Female external urine collection device; approved suction canister/tubing; gloves; perineal-care supplies; skin barrier compatible with device.

● PREP + PATIENT SETUP

- Verify indication and facility/manufacture instructions.
- Assess cognition, mobility, anatomy, skin, stool incontinence, and ability to report discomfort.
- Explain that it rests externally; position supine

● VAULT TIP

- Placement and dry skin determine success. Reassess after every turn because even a small shift can cause leakage or pressure.

● STEP-BY-STEP

1. Hand hygiene; identify patient; apply gloves.
2. Provide perineal care front to back; remove stool and pat skin completely dry.
3. Inspect labia, groin, perineum, and sacrum for redness, moisture injury, pressure injury, or breakdown.
4. Connect device tubing to the dedicated collection canister and regulated wall suction.
5. Set suction to the manufacturer/facility-specified range; never improvise the setting.
6. Separate labia gently. Place the soft gauze side against the perineum with the device centered between the labia and lower end near the gluteal cleft, following product orientation.
7. Release labia around device. Confirm it is external, not inserted, and not pressing against injured skin.
8. Position tubing without kinks, tension, dependent compression, or contact that could cause pressure injury.
9. Verify urine is wicking into the canister and there is no leakage or excessive suction noise.
10. Reassess placement, skin, comfort, urine output, and canister at regular intervals and after turning, toileting, or bowel movements.
11. Replace device at the manufacturer/facility interval and immediately if soiled with stool; perform perineal care each time.
12. Remove gloves, hand hygiene, and keep call light within reach.

● SAFETY REMINDERS

- Never insert into vagina.
- Avoid use over significant perineal breakdown or when device cannot be positioned safely.
- Stop for pain, bleeding, swelling, suction injury, or worsening skin damage.
- Not a substitute for toileting or an indwelling catheter when clinically required.

● COMMON MISTAKES

- Applying to moist/soiled skin.
- Incorrect suction or device orientation.
- Leaving in place after stool contamination.
- Counting leakage as measured urine output.

● DOCUMENTATION

- Indication; device placement/change time.
- Perineal/sacral skin assessment and care.
- Suction per policy and device function.
- Measured urine amount/character; leakage.
- Tolerance, teaching, complications/interventions.