

Stomal Therapy

Some diseases may require the surgical removal of diseased portions of a bowel. So that waste can still leave the body, the bowel may have to be rerouted through an artificially created hole in the abdomen. This hole is a stoma. The stoma may be permanent in the case of bowel cancer or serious injury, or it can be a temporary measure while the bowel recovers from events such as infection, inflammation or stab wounds.

A colostomy is an operation that connects the colon to the abdominal wall, an ileostomy connects the last part of the small intestine to the abdominal wall and an urostomy is a similar operation on the bladder.

RDNS offers a comprehensive range of stomal therapy services across Greater Melbourne. The need for expert stoma care in the community is considerable.

Typically, RDNS nurses treat a variety of temporary or permanent stomas including colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy and fistulas. They offer advice, education and support to clients in managing their stomas, and encourage them towards full self-management where possible.

RDNS' stomal therapy services have been carefully developed through education, research, networking and communication throughout our 20 nursing centres. Our services are supported by a specialist team of four Clinical Nurse Consultants – with advanced qualifications in stomal therapy - that work in consultation with stomal therapy resource nurses, general nursing staff, the client, and their carer to ensure the client receives appropriate care at home.

Their clinical practice is supported by RDNS' Clinical Leadership Group (CLG) in stomal therapy care, which contributes to better client outcomes by promoting a best practice culture in the provision of stomal therapy services within RDNS. The CLG researches and responds to questions from RDNS nurses relating to stomal therapy; reviews new care products and assists with developing procedures to ensure RDNS' stomal therapy service is based on verified evidence.

Further, clinical practice in stomal therapy is supported by the RDNS Helen Macpherson Smith Institute of Community Health, which offers stomal therapy courses and workshops to staff to ensure their wound care is of the highest possible standard.

For more information please call 1300 33 44 55.