



Ostomy Association of the Houston Area

AFFILIATED SUPPORT GROUP

“We help ourselves by helping others to help themselves.”

We are a volunteer-based organization dedicated to providing education, information, support and advocacy for people who have had or will have intestinal or urinary diversions.

P.O. Box 25164
Houston, TX 77265-5164
www.ostomyhouston.org

Thrive with an Ostomy

By Ed Pfueller, UOAA Communications and Outreach Manager
Courtesy of UOAA, Summer 2024

Ostomy surgery saves lives but it’s normal to feel overwhelmed, whether it is temporary or permanent. Accepting that you’re going to the bathroom in a whole new way can take time. The emotional hurdles are often more challenging than any physical ones.

With the right knowledge and support, people don’t just survive but can thrive in life with an ostomy pouch. Here are a few things our ostomy community says leads to success.

Seek out an ostomy nurse specialist and custom-fit your pouch.

Certified Wound, Ostomy, and Continence (WOC) nurses, are the experts in ostomy care. They can help you find the ostomy pouching supplies that will work best for you to prevent leaks and skin irritation. Your stoma and body contours may change over time so it’s important to consult with one. If you don’t have a certified nurse near you, there are telehealth options at ostomy.org/clinic. Contact a medical supply company to get your prescribed supplies and sample new ones.

Find peer support and trusted information

Ostomy nurses are wonderful but nothing can compare to talking with someone who has been through this profound change before. You are not alone. United Ostomy Associations of America (UOAA) estimates up to one-million people are living with an ostomy or continent diversion in the United States. UOAA has hundreds of peer support groups and also events to connect with people like you. Ask for advice on returning to work, sex, and how to talk about your ostomy with others. You’ll find that many ostomates even name their stoma and celebrate their “stomaversary.” Our website ostomy.org is considered the most trusted place to find educational resources, self-advocacy tools, supply information, and details on topics like nutrition



and peristomal hernias. Fact-check anything you may discover on social media.

Don’t Limit Yourself

You don’t have to want to climb mountains or run marathons but you should know that plenty of people living with an ostomy do. Read realistic but positive ostomate stories you can relate to. If doing what you love means going out with friends and not worrying about the nearest bathroom, you may discover an ostomy is a big improvement. Everyone should expect to swim, play sports or do whatever makes you, well you!

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We are a health support group, a non-profit, tax-exempt, organization of volunteers whose purpose is to provide mutual aid and education to persons who have ostomies and to their families. We are a Texas non-profit corporation. Membership fees and donations are tax deductible.

Central Group

Date: No August meeting, next meeting September 16, 2024
Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Place: In-Person Meeting: Tracy Gee Community Center, 3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, Texas 77042
Program: Convatec Presentation
Contact: Denise Parsons, 713-824-8841 rockynme2@gmail.com

NEW GROUP Clear Lake Group

Date: Monday, August 26, 2024
Time: 6:30 p.m. (also available WebEx)
Place: In Person Meeting: Room AD1026 near Starbucks HCA Healthcare Clear Lake, 500 Medical Center Blvd., Webster, TX 77598
Contact: RSVP: Colorectal Coordinator 281-381-3619 or CLRHoncology@HCAHealthcare.com

Northwest Group

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: In-Person Meeting: Montgomery County South Regional Library, 2101 Lake Robbins Dr., The Woodlands, TX, 77380
Contact: Mary Kinsey, BSN, RN, WOC, WCC, OMS 936-443-2565 mkinsey815@gmail.com

North Houston Group

Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Time: 12:00 p.m.
Place: In-Person Meeting: Memorial Hermann Greater Heights Hospital, Medical Plaza 2, Suite 234 (second entrance) 1740 W. 27th St., Houston, TX 77008
Contact: Ericka Spence 346-263-9658 ericka.spence@memorialhermann.org
 Mary Kinsey, BSN, RN, WOC, WCC, OMS 936-443-2565 mkinsey815@gmail.com

Sugar Land Group

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time: 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual Meeting
Program: Presentation TBD
Contact: Jennifer Cerda, MSN, RN, OCN, Nurse Navigator, 346-901-2012 jcerda@houston.methodist.org

Woodlands Pediatric Group

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Virtual Meeting
Contact: Mary Kinsey, BSN, RN, WOC, WCC, OMS 936-443-2565 mkinsey815@gmail.com
 Contact Mary Kinsey for online meeting link.

J-Pouch

For J Pouch questions, attend any of our group meetings, or call or text Ron Meisinger at 281-491-8220

Opportunities and Announcements**Use Those Shopping Cards**

Kroger (LB326) and Randalls (3698) return a percentage of your purchases to the Ostomy Association on a quarterly basis.

Anniversary Gift

As you celebrate the anniversary of your ostomy surgery each year, consider making a monetary gift to the Ostomy Association. Checks should be made payable to the *Ostomy Association of the Houston Area* and sent to the Treasurer at the address shown below.

Memorial Fund

Donations can be made to our Memorial Fund to memorialize or honor individuals. Checks should be made payable to the *Ostomy Association of the Houston Area* and sent to the address below. When sending a donation, be sure to include the name of the person being honored so that acknowledgement can be sent.

Moving? Changing Your Email Address?

Please make sure we have your current contact information so we can reach you by email, U.S. mail, or phone. Send updates to Lorette Bauarschi at lorette@bauarschilaw.com.

For Anniversary Gifts, Memorial Donations, Mailing Changes, or Sponsorships, please send all correspondence to:

Ostomy Association of the Houston Area
 Attn: Mike McGinity, Treasurer
 P. O. Box 25164
 Houston, TX 77265-5164

(When sending a donation, please include the name of the person being honored so that appropriate acknowledgement can be sent.)

We encourage you to bring your spouse or significant other and members of your immediate family to our meetings.

Sugar Land Group July Meeting Summary

Presentation given by Cindy Barefield, BSN, RN-BC, CWOCN on “Traveling with an Ostomy.” The UOAA website has a Travel Tips+TSA link under ostomy information available to ostomates. An example of a Travel Communication Card was shown that could be printed out and put with your travel documents to communicate a health condition, disability, or medical device during screening. TSA officers should not ask you to show your pouch, but you may be asked to rub over your pouch outside your clothing so they can test your hand to rule out explosive residue. There is also a UOAA Restroom Access Communication Card to carry and show that you need urgent restroom access to empty or change your pouch and/or catheter. Air travel tips were discussed and items that you can pack in your carry on bags and checked in bags. Discussion on disabilities and medical conditions included informing the TSA officer about the location of your pouch prior to screening. Open discussion with the ostomy support group included additional tips on traveling with an ostomy and how to safely carry your supplies with you on the plane.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 15, 2024 from 6:00–7:00 p.m., with a presentation TBD.

Ostomy Academy Program

Sexuality, Intimacy, and Pregnancy with an Ostomy



**Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. ET
(7:00 p.m. CT, 6:00 p.m. MT, 5:00 p.m. PT)**

Speaker: Neilanjan Nandi, MD, FACG, AGAF, FACP

Our September 2024 event is sponsored by Hollister. Ostomy Academy is a free online educational seminar to bring trusted and comprehensive ostomy information to all members of the ostomy community. Top experts, medical professionals, and experienced ostomates will focus on a new series of quality of life topics in each presentation.

To register:

<https://www.ostomy.org/ostomy-academy/>



The **United Ostomy Associations of America (UOAA)** can be contacted at: www.ostomy.org or **800-826-0826**

Embracing Ostomy Life Programs Launched in 2024

Embracing Ostomy Life (www.embracingostomylife.org) has been Rolf Benirschke's dream since he had his ostomy surgery in 1979 which almost ended his NFL career. After securing their 501c3 status in the spring, their team has been hard at work laying the groundwork for the two programs expected to launch in early 2024:

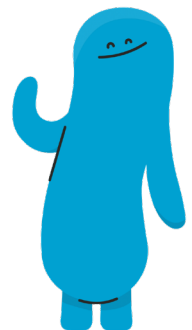
Alive & Kicking—a 30-day ostomy recovery program delivered via email with tips on adjusting to a new life that features videos and information from physicians, WOCNs, physical therapists, nutritionists, mental health professionals and “veteran” ostomates.

Team HOPE (Helping Ostomates through Peer Encouragement) will match volunteers who have completed the UOAA “Ostomy Friends” training course with new ostomates based on factors like gender, type of ostomy, lifestyle, age and other relevant factors.

Here's a sneak peek at a couple videos that will be featured in Alive & Kicking: (click on links below)

[Bitter or Better – Rolf Benirschke](#)

[Your ostomy does not dictate your future – Jearlean Taylor](#)



embracing ostomy life

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- Worked for pay at least part-time during treatment
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- Spouse/partner was also employed during this time

Details

- Eligible participants will be asked to complete 2 online surveys (<20 minutes/survey)
- Spouses/partners will also be asked to complete 2 online surveys (<10 minutes/survey)
- Participants will be compensated

Click on pink buttons above and below to get more info.

Sign Up

Full details and sign-ups can be found here:
https://baylor.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a_hirdAAy9JtNot8

For questions, please contact
sara_perry@baylor.edu



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Ostomy support group monthly meetings at HCA Healthcare Clear Lake

An ostomy support group for patients and their caregivers meet on the fourth Monday of every month in room AD1026 at HCA Healthcare Hospital. The meetings will feature guest speakers who share information and offer insights with the group. There will also be roundtable discussions.

Location: AD 1026, near Starbucks **Date:**
4th Monday of every Month **Time:** 6:30
p.m.

Meetings are also available via WebEx

For additional information or to RSVP, please contact the colorectal coordinator at our facility. Call or Text:
281-381-3619 or email: CLRHoncology@HCAHealthcare.com

HCA Houston Healthcare Clear Lake
500 Medical Center Blvd Webster, TX
77598
(281) 332-2511
www.hcahoustonhealthcare.com/locations/clear-lake/specialties/wound-care

HCA  **Houston Healthcare**
Clear Lake

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP 2024

Join us for a forum providing support, encouragement, education and guidance to patients with ostomies (colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy).

Support group meetings will feature:

- Expert presentations from health care professionals
- Opportunities to share stories and discuss life after ostomy procedures

Who: Any patient with an ostomy, including cancer patients

When:	6-7 p.m.	Jan. 18	April 18	July 18	Oct. 17
		Feb. 15	May 15	Aug. 15	Nov. 21
		March 21	June 20	Sept. 19	Dec. 19

Where: This support group will be conducted virtually.
You will receive the meeting link after registering.

RSVP: Please email Jennifer Cerda, MSN, RN, OCN, at jcerda@houstonmethodist.org or call **346.901.2012**.

Please note, email is not a secure means to communicate personal identification, i.e. Social Security number, date of birth, financial information, etc.



MKTG112023

WOC Nurse Directory

Cindy Barefield, RN, CWOCN (281) 428-3033
Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital
cbarefield@houstonmethodist.org

Pat Thompson RN, BSN, CWON (281) 397-2799
Patricia.Thompson6@hcahealthcare.com

Kinsey Ostomy Care
info@kinseyostomycare.com



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facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/OstomyHouston/>



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Fax (713) 461-5806

Virtual Ostomy Clinic

Ostomies change bodies and lives. People living with an ostomy need personalized suggestions and ongoing support from medical experts who really understand ostomies. In the healthcare system today, too many ostomates do not have the regular access to a certified ostomy nurse they need for a successful health journey. This is why UOAA has partnered with The Wound Company—to bring certified ostomy nurses to ostomates and their caregivers across the United States virtually. **For a one-time direct payment of \$125**, The Wound Company's certified ostomy nurses provide people with personalized support via Zoom, text SMS and email for 30 days—in the privacy of their own home.

Get Started Here! *(More info on page 8)*



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- ✓ Leading Adhesives Technology including Durahesive® and Stomahesive®
- ✓ Convatec Moldable Technology™ is proven to prevent and improve complications of the skin around your stoma²
- ✓ Essential Accessories, including ESENTA™ skin care line and lubricating deodorant and eakin Cohesive® seals



Our me+™ program provides ostomy education, resources and support to help you keep your skin healthy.

Scan the QR code to learn more, visit www.mepluscare.com or contact our me+™ team at 1-800-422-8811

Reference: 1. Lessons Learned About Peristomal Skin Complications: Secondary Analysis of the ADVOCATE Trial. Salvaladlena, Ginger; Colwell, Janice C.; Skountrianos, George; Pittman, Joyce.
2. Maria Teresa Szweczyk, MD, PhD; Grazyna Majewska, RN, ETN; Mary V. Cabral, MS, FNP-BC, CWOCN-AP; and Karin Hazel-Piontek, RN. The Effects of Using a Moldable Skin Barrier on Peristomal Skin Condition in Persons with an Ostomy: Results of a Prospective, Observational, Multinational Study. Ostomy Wound Management 2014;60(12):16-26.
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Ostomy Outpatient Clinics

Memorial Hermann – Greater Heights BY APPOINTMENT
Call 713-867-2432

Memorial Hermann – Northeast FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, BY APPOINTMENT
Call 281-540-6322 or fax a referral to 281-540-7107.

Memorial Hermann Rehabilitation Hospital – Katy BY APPOINTMENT
Contact Kim Dewitt, Clinic Manager
kim.dewitt@memorialhermann.org 281-579-5541

Memorial Hermann – The Woodlands BY APPOINTMENT
Contact Stephanie Wilkins 281-602-4830 or fax 281-602-4849



GET THE LATEST INFORMATION AND INSPIRATION
AT THE UOAA WEBSITE

<https://www.ostomy.org/news/>

OBTAIN NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITH UOAA

<https://www.ostomy.org/membership/>

Virtual Ostomy Clinic

(Continued from page 7)

Whether it's a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy, a new ostomate learning to care for their stoma or an existing ostomate grappling with new complications, the journey can be overwhelming. UOAA's Virtual Ostomy Clinic provided by The Wound Company offers support through telehealth visits and ongoing touchpoints via texting and emailing to make sure ostomates have the right supplies for their unique situation and thoroughly understand how to care for their ostomy.

- * Assess a person's ostomy in one comprehensive telehealth assessment by Zoom in the beginning of the 30-day period
- * Assist ostomates and their caregivers in choosing supplies and recommend pouching options that fit the person's lifestyle and health goals
- * Help ostomates and their caregivers prevent and manage skin irritation, rashes, and other complications around the ostomate's stoma.
- * Answer ostomy questions from ostomates over email or SMS for the 30-day program.
- * Provide personalized education, care, and support throughout the program, including tips on diet, nutrition, hydration and intimacy.
- * Follow up with one additional comprehensive telehealth assessment during the program when necessary.
- * Provide a summary of the assessment and recommendations for ongoing care after each telehealth assessment.

[Learn more about UOAA's Virtual Ostomy Clinic](#)

Donating Ostomy Supplies?

Here are a few options if you would like to donate ostomy supplies. These non-profit organizations are all volunteer run.

Local Community Ostomy Donation Closet 1740 W. 27th St., Suite 234, Houston, Texas, 77008. Open by appointment for donation drop off or pickup Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please call or text Ericka Spence 346-263-9658, or contact Mary Kinsey 936-443-2565 to arrange access.

Medical Bridges: they collect medical supplies locally. On their website, click the Get Involved link and then the donate supplies link. It provides you with various options. <https://www.medicalbridges.org/>

Friends of Ostomates USA: provides ostomy supplies and educational resources at no cost to ostomates in need around the world. Their warehouse is located in Louisville, KY. Please go to their website for details: <https://www.fowusa.org/>

Kindred Box: is dedicated to improving the lives of people with ostomies and they distribute donated ostomy supplies to support the care of uninsured and underinsured ostomates in America struggling with financial hardship. Go to <https://www.kindredbox.org/> and find out what ostomy products they can accept and to learn about their Postage Program which helps with your shipping expenses. The Kindred Box is located at 4653 Nall Rd., Suite F12, Farmers Branch, TX 75244.

More options can be found on the UOAA's website: <https://www.ostomy.org/donate-ostomy-supplies/>

UOAA Membership Resources



Join UOAA National Memberships

www.ostomy.org/membership



As a National Member of UOAA, you are helping us to achieve our goal to support, educate, empower and advocate for people who have or will have ostomy or continent diversion surgery. By joining UOAA, you will also help increase the influence and voice the ostomy community has on a national level.

You can join annually as a National Individual Member or as a National Medical Professional Member.

As a UOAA member you will receive a packet of our educational resources, national membership and stoma rose pins, be the first to receive any new publications, and can be nominated to be elected to UOAA's Board of Directors. You will also receive a special promotion code to subscribe to *The Phoenix* magazine at a discounted rate.

For more information and annual membership fee visit www.ostomy.org/membership/ and help UOAA support the next generation of ostomates.

Get Ostomy Answers!

The Phoenix is the leading national magazine for ostomates, their families and caregivers. Subscriptions directly fund the nonprofit United Ostomy Assoc. of America – the only national organization providing vital information, resources, support and advocacy for ostomates.

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Osto Group www.ostogroup.org

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All you pay is shipping and handling. **877-678-6690**

Newsletter Advertising: *Please contact the President or Treasurer for advertising opportunities.*

Membership Application

Membership in the Ostomy Association of the Houston Area requires one easy payment. Please complete the following form and mail as directed with payment as shown. Dues of \$25.00 per year are payable to:
Ostomy Association of the Houston Area, Attention: Treasurer
P. O. Box 25164, Houston, TX 77265-5164

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ E-mail: (required) _____

Surgery Date: _____ Birth Date: _____ Sex: Male Female Other _____

Reason for surgery Crohn's Ulcerative Colitis Cancer Birth Defects Other _____

In additional to English, I also speak the following language(s). Foreign language spoken: _____
Why do we ask this? We have a patient visiting program and we are occasionally contacted by ostomates who are not fluent in English and we look to our membership to assist with communication.

Procedure or Relationship:

To help us complete our records, please answer the following. *Check all that apply.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Colostomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Continent Ileostomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent of Child with procedure
<input type="checkbox"/> Ileostomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Continent Urostomy	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Family Member
<input type="checkbox"/> Urinary Diversion	<input type="checkbox"/> Pull-Through	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> J-Pouch	<input type="checkbox"/> Nurse

I would like to attend meetings with the (please circle one):
Central Group Baytown Group Northwest Group North Houston Group Sugar Land Group Woodlands Pediatric Group

I learned about the Ostomy Association from
 WOC Nurse Physician Newsletter Surgical Shop Website Other: _____

I am interested in volunteering. Yes No

I have enclosed an additional \$ _____ as a donation to support the association's mission of helping ostomates.

*Membership benefits include:
Monthly Support/Information
Meetings, Social Events,
Monthly Newsletter*



LeeAnne, CeraPlus™ Product User

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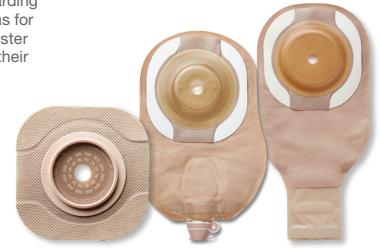
Request your trial sample at: Hollister.com/en/ostomycare

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