

"We help ourselves by helping others to

Ostomy Association of the Houston Area

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

Board Election

help themselves."

In May, all of our members, through the various support groups they attend either in person or virtually, will vote on the election of three Board members to serve from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. Thankfully, Kathleen Duplessis, Denise Parsons and Marian Newman have all agreed to run for an additional term on the Board. Their continued commitment to the OAHA is invaluable to our all-volunteer group. Unfortunately, despite numerous appeals to the ostomy community, we had no additional volunteers to assist our Board in fulfilling our important mission to educate and support ostomates in the greater Houston area. We have wonderful, dedicated nurses who run our satellite groups who provide vital one-on-one support to patients and their caregivers. The members of the Board work behind the scenes and are instrumental in keeping the OAHA running. Here are just a few of our responsibilities:

- Fielding phone calls and website inquiries from ostomy patients, caregivers, medical professionals and family;
- Administering the Visitor program by arranging for phone, in person and electronic visits with ostomates and their caregivers;
- Organizing and implementing the Visitor Training Program;
- Maintaining the OAHA website, <u>ostomyhouston.org</u>;
- Maintaining the OAHA Facebook page;
- Putting out a monthly newsletter that is emailed to over 240 people (and mailing newsletters to those without email), including maintaining our online database of newsletter recipients;

Patient Visiting and Support Services

Doctors and WOC Nurses, please note:

Upon request from a doctor, nurse, or social worker, a specially trained visitor will be asked to contact an ostomy patient by phone or visit them in person before and/or after surgery. The visitor will be matched as nearly as possible according to sex, age, and type of ostomy. The visitor does not give medical advice, and there is no charge for this service. Please contact our Visitation Coordinator, Marian Newman at 713-392-5768, or newmarian@gmail.com.



- Coordinating with the UOAA for certain projects, including the UOAA Conference that will be in Houston in 2023 and also Ostomy Awareness Day last October;
- Obtaining and communicating with the advertisers in our newsletter and on our website;
- Maintaining our membership database, including annual invoicing;

(continued on page 3)

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.

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News from the OAHA Board

The OAHA is very grateful to Sheila R. Fieldman for making a memorial gift in memory of Christina Carnero. Christina was a member of the Ostomy Association of the Houston Area. Our thoughts and prayers are with Christina's family and friends.

Be the one to MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Our Virtual Ostomy Visitor Training is around the corner—Saturday, July 23, 2022 beginning at 10 am and lasting till noon or so. **Who should attend the Visitor Training?** Ostomates, Nurses, family members of ostomates, friends of ostomates are all welcome to attend as the program is very educational. If you would like to sign up and become a certified visitor or if you have questions, please send an email to Kathleen Duplessis at Kathleen.duplessis@outlook.com or call her at 713-299-3180.

If you missed the United Ostomy of America's (UOAA) April 26th Ostomy Academy you can view the recording on YouTube by using the following link: <u>Ostomy Academy Session:</u> <u>Leaks, Tweaks, and Peeks</u>. You can also register on the UOAA's site to make sure you don't miss any of their quarterly Ostomy Academy sessions: <u>Register today for future installments—Ostomy</u> <u>Academy</u>.

Volunteer Opportunity with the OAHA's Newsletter Team:

We would love to have some help with our OAHA Monthly Newsletter. So, if you have a bit of time each month come and join Lorette Bauarschi who would love another set of eyes to help her find great articles and proof the final copy of the newsletter each month. Anne Swanson with Anne Swanson Graphic Design works her magic each month and puts our newsletter together. No technical skills involved and not too time-consuming—most of the OAHA volunteers also have full time jobs but we want to serve the greater Houston ostomy community—come join us!!

Membership Drive Around the Corner: The OAHA is very grateful to all who have supported us with annual membership dues and donations. We know that the past few years have been challenging with COVID-19 and we are thankful for your memberships and your support. July is our annual membership dues drive (annual membership is \$25) and we will be asking you to renew your membership.

The OAHA is an association of volunteers dedicated to serving and educating ostomates and their families. Thanks to dues and donations, we are able to continue our outreach with monthly meetings, a certified visitor training program, monthly newsletters, an informative website and financial support for our ostomy nurse scholarship.

Donations are Tax-deductible. The OAHA is a registered non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to providing mutual support for people with ostomies. If you would like to be a member and cannot afford membership dues at this time, please contact one of our board members. We receive donations from generous donors who support our mission of helping ostomates. All information is kept confidential.

Your OAHA Board

Central Group News

The Central Group met on Monday, April 18th at the Tracy Gee Community Center. This was our 4th in-person meeting in 2022 we had 9 guests attending. Thank you to Shannon Triplett and Lisa Gonzales – Coloplast's dynamic duo team for the great Coloplast presentation and product review!

Shannon and Lisa shared a PowerPoint presentation describing Coloplast's latest and greatest products followed by a handson demonstration of each product. We witnessed the 'body fit technology' (with a double layer of elasticity) allowing the appliance to move with your body making sure to give you a good fit. Coloplast barriers are also skin friendly with a skin care layer, a protection layer and an elastic top film. We were all impressed with the great stretch and flexibility of their barriers. We also learned about some of their Brava products including: Adhesive Remover Spray (we all love this one!), Skin Barrier Spray, Belt, Ostomy Support Belt, Powder (no ostomate should be without this great product), Protective Seal Spray, Curved Elastic Barrier Strips and their Protective Sheets. Shannon and Lisa also brought some Coloplast pocket sized catalogues for each guest. We played a fun game matching products with their descriptions and some lucky folks walked away with products, sweets and stuffed animals – baby bunnies with baby ostomies!! A big thank you to Shannon and Lisa for their great presentation and for bringing delicious cookies to the meeting!

Please join us at our next meeting on May 16th for a presentation from Hollister's Sales Specialist, Roxanne Warren. She will share their Secure Start Services program and a Skin Health presentation. Hollister is the manufacturer of what many ostomates consider to be the very best odor eliminator—M9. Ostomates, family, friends, health care professionals are always welcome to join us.

Kathleen Duplessis, President, OAHA, Kathleen.duplessis@outlook.com or 713-299-3180

Baytown Group News

Baytown cancelled their meeting for April. There was not enough attendance to warrant a presentation. Theresa Johnson, COO and Director of Customer Relations for Stomagienics has graciously agreed to re-schedule for the May 16th meeting of our group.

Kind regards,

Cindy Barefield, BSN, RN-BC, CWOCN 281-428-3033, cbarefield@houstonmethodist.org

Northwest Group News

The Northwest Group enjoyed an interactive program with Hollister's Ostomy Sales Specialist Lisa Osterhaus. Lisa brought the wonderful Alissa again to be with us. We took an in-depth tour of Hollister's website at www.Hollister.com—select the United States [English] for country and Ostomy Care for product line. There are all kinds of user friendly links, ostomy information and even videos for ostomates. We even got to walk through placing a request to try Hollister products online by going to www.securestartservices.com/enroll.

Once there, you can fill out the easy form, share a little bit of information about your ostomy and request samples to try. We used Pat Thompson, our incredible WON as our nurse reference. Our online request was to try Hollister's CERAPlus barrier rings. The CERAPlus barriers and rings are infused with CERA and extremely skin friendly. So take a few minutes and give it a try If you get a chance and let them know that Pat referred you.

Next month we are super excited to host Ray Nevels, Territory Manager for ConvaTec for our May 18 meeting. Login information will be in your May email newsletter.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Billy Locke

337-515-6354

HOPE—TCH Woodlands, Pediatric Group News

The HOPE Pediatric group met virtually on April 10th and will meet again on Sunday May 15th. (2-3 pm). Plans are in place to help some of our teen members with registration fee for the Youth Rally Virtual camp being held July 13–16th.

Check your email newsletter for information with information about joining the Zoom meeting.

MaryAnne Lewis, maryannelewis@hotmail.com or 281-948-1490

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





Saturday, July 23, 2022 Please join us!

Our Visitor Training program will be virtual this year and is planned for Saturday, July 23, 2022 from 10 a.m. to Noon! We hope everyone will be able to join us.

In our program, we cover the psychological and social issues that ostomates handle after surgery. This segment of the program probably generates the most discussion.

Objectives of this segment include:

- Understanding the four phases of recovery: shock or disbelief, retreat or defensive, acknowledgement, and adaptation or reconstruction
- Learning the appropriate response to these phases
- · Reviewing outer directed concerns

Board Election (continued from page 1)

- Handling all financial duties, including budgeting, payment of expenses, reporting to the IRS and reporting to the UOAA;
- Attending various outreach programs on behalf of the OAHA —including, for example, maintaining tables that distribute educational and other supportive information at the Get your Rear in Gear and CCFA Take Steps fundraising walks, among others; attending and speaking at WOCN Society events when asked; and attending and speaking at manufacturersponsored events, such as the recent dinners by Coloplast that highlighted ostomy support in the Houston area;
- Establishing the WOCN scholarship program along with Spring Branch Medical Supply, and which is implemented by the WOCN Society's South Central group; and
- Running the Central group's support meetings.

If you believe in the mission of the OAHA, please volunteer to help the Board members. We can only be successful if we work together.

Sugar Land Group News

The Houston Methodist Sugar Land Ostomy Support Group met on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Reminded group of visitor training with OAHA, invited interested parties to contact Joan for more information.

Joan then began the presentation on Stinky Poo and Pee: The Art of Odor Containment.

Odor containment comes down to five rules.

Rule #1 Let It GO!

Empty the pouch more often, retained stool and urine does smell more the longer it is outside your body. Plan to empty or change your bag when it is 1/3 to 1/2 full. This may be different, depending on your output— the more liquid your output is the heavier it will be and may need to be emptied more often.

Rule #2 Be A Picky Eater

Avoid certain food or beverages that make your output have a strong(er) odor. Use a food log or food diary to keep track of what foods or liquids smell more. Be aware that there are also food or beverages that can help reduce the odor of your output, such as buttermilk, yogurt, kefir, cranberry juice, and parsley.

Rule #3 A Rose By Any Other Name

GAS. Not only can certain foods and beverages add odor but many can also cause excess bad smelling gas. Once again, use of a food log or diary will help you determine what foods or dinks give you more gas. It is also important to be careful about swallowing air through activities of chewing gum, drinking carbonated beverages, using a straw, eating and drinking too fast, and smoking. If you do have gas, remember that a filter on your bag will help prevent the bag 'blowing up' on you and will help vent gas from the bag. Some bags have special filters that are supposed to decrease the odor of gas as it passes through the filter.

Rule #4 Cover Up!

Odor eliminators are those products you can use when emptying your pouch or changing your bag. Many are meant to be sprayed into the air to absorb or cover up the offensive smell, such as Hollister m9TM, Smith & Nephew Banish IITM Appliance Deodorant, Geniairex Securi-TTM Ostomy Deodorant. Some odor eliminators are meant to be placed inside your bag, like OstogelTM Ileostomy Pouch Gel Packets or Trio Ostomy Pearls, which also solidify liquid output (do not use this with a urostomy). Other room deodorizers that can be purchased to have a dispenser that spritzes the room at timed intervals and are medical grade include OziumTM. and Hollister m9TM products. There is also a tablet that can be eaten to help decrease odor production in your intestines, Devrom, which can be purchased without a prescription. Pouch Deodorants are also available for use and are also lubricating, like Coloplast BravaTM lubricating drops and Perfect ChoiceTM pouch deodorant. You can also use common toilet sprays like VIPooTM and PoopourriTM when emptying your output into the toilet.

Find the right ostomy bag for YOU. Bags and appliances come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, materials, include one-piece and twopiece. Trial and error are the best ways to figure out what will work best for you, and you can call any ostomy supply manufacturer to ask for samples. Know that sometimes situations will be out of your control but having an appliance or bag that is reliable and makes you feel confident that it won't fall off or leak can be priceless.

Extra security is when you also have a bag that you can discard a used ostomy device into that won't leak odor to the surroundings. Various options are out there and some even target the ostomy user. Some pet stool collection bags are also good at holding odors from announcing your presence.

Open questions and answers included on-the-go options of a square pail with bags for emptying your ostomy bag when making long distance care trips. And for the Houston area drivers who may be caught in traffic, recommendation was to have one or two 1-gallon sealable freezer bags with some wipes inside your vehicle for bag emergencies. Suggestions included taking your ostomy supplies into your overnight room, placing the products under the vehicle seat out of direct sunlight when driving, and use of an insulated cooler to insulate your ostomy supplies from the heat.

Our meeting concluded with the announcement for the next meeting on May 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM with Daniela Jofre, BSN, RN, OMS, WCC on Ostomy Accessories.

Joan Burnham, MSN, RN, OCN, MEDSURG-BC

Oncology Nurse Navigator 281-274-0188 jmburnham@houstonmethodist.org

OMG I'm Bleeding

from Tulsa (OK) Ostomy Life Newsletter

Don't be alarmed if your stoma bleeds a little bit when you're cleaning it. As long as the bleeding stops after a minute or two, this is actually a good sign. Your doctor wants your stoma to be healthy and have a good blood supply. What you really need to keep an eye on is the peristomal skin...that's the skin directly around your stoma. Just make sure it looks like the rest of the skin on your stomach.

Caring for the Caregiver

By Ellyn Mantell

We are at that stage of life where so many in our world are dealing with issues that require care. All are in shellshock! Those who require help were frequently the backbone of their family, their community, their businesses, and suddenly, they need care. Family members are called upon to play a different role, that of becoming the caregiver with little to no preparation. It rattles everyone, can separate and cause feuds in families, and can go in a very negative direction. But if everyone has their eye on the prize, that of supporting the one in need, there will be an amazing sense of camaraderie, and I believe, much more success. Now, more than ever, people need each other.

I want to share some thoughts with you in the

event you or someone you know finds themselves in this situation:

Help to create a plan of action, logically and without emotion. Remember to focus on what is best for the patient (or one in need, but we will refer to them as patient) Ask professionals for guidance, but let them know your resources, financially, personally and physically. Bravado doesn't have a place here...be open and honest. Nobody can do it all, and nobody expects that.

Bring family and close friends together and have open conversations about the direction being planned. It is dangerous to assume you know what others are thinking, and it is subterfuge for others to talk without involving you directly. Make it easy for family and friends to come to you, and do not put up a wall. Nobody benefits when that happens and too much time is wasted! Listen, gather information, keep an open mind, and then feel empowered to make decisions.

Keep a journal of what is happening to your loved one and yourself. Being mindful of the experience and noticing how you are growing and changing is valuable. It will help with each step you take. These things are most often a process, and not "fixed" on the schedule we desire. Additionally, for the patient, knowing what tests have been performed, the results, in one place, can be invaluable.

There are many resources available, but it is a minefield for those who are dealing with the patient. Ask a valued friend or family member to make calls on your behalf or help them navigate the internet. As an Advocate, I receive countless phone calls from family members and friends asking for my guidance. I praise those who reach out on someone's behalf, and know the patient is so fortunate to have that type of loving concern.

Finally, although I could continue for pages, take the Caregiver to lunch, do something special for them, acknowledge all they are doing and the amount on their plate. Call, reach out and do what



you can. This is such a trying time, and certainly, we are all aware of our vulnerability. Pay it forward and watch how it helps.

Ellyn Mantell is a UOAA advocate and Affiliated Support Group leader from New Jersey. This post first appeared on her blog More Than My Ostomy.

Helpful Hints from Here and There

Ostomy Oracles- Crouse Hospital, Syracuse

- Why not empty your pouch each time you urinate? No need to wait until you are full. While in the "Neighborhood" just do it.
- Two or three tablespoons of plain baking soda in water when washing around the stoma will not only help heal the skin, but relieve itching too.
- Watch your appliance if you are beginning any new medications. Contact your doctor immediately if you suspect the medicine is going straight in and straight out. (Editor's note: I once found undigested iron pills in the toilet bowel. Digestive acids had removed the coating but the rest of the pill still went through.
- Carry an extra tail closure with you in case one goes "down the drain" or slides across the public restroom floor. (Or use the pouches with the velcro closures). It could prove critical to your entire program as well as your morale.
- Wash reusable plastic pouches in COLD water. Hot water does not get them cleaner, but it does weaken the pouch and can destroy the odor-proofing. Hot water locks color and odor into the pores of the plastic.





PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Usability Study: Experimental Colostomy Pouch

Compensation: \$50 gift card

Contact: colostomates@rice.edu

WHAT? Participants will evaluate an experimental colostomy pouch by completing a wear trial for up to 24 hours, taking surveys, and participating in interviews related to their experience with the experimental pouch.

WHO? Participants must be ostomates aged 18 years or older and willing to wear the experimental pouch during normal daily activities and complete the accompanying surveys.

WHY? This research study will help Rice360 determine the suitability of this device for use by ostomates in Sub-Saharan Africa where cost and accessibility are barriers to ostomy care products.

Principal Investigator contact information: Rebecca Richards-Kortum, <u>rkortum@rice.edu</u>, 713-348-3823

IRB Study Number: 2022-167

This research study does not involve patients, medications, or any other type of hazard. This research study has been reviewed and approved by Rice University Institutional Review Board. If you have concerns regarding this study or questions regarding your rights as a study participant, please contact the Rice IRB Compliance Administrator, at Rice University. Email: <u>irb@rice.edu</u> or Telephone: 713-348-3586.

Ostomies Are Lifesavers

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Ostomy	Stoma	Education	Advocacy
lleostomy	Colostomy	Urostomy	Continent
Diversion	J Pouch	WOCN Nurse	Stigma
PBOR	Pouch	Adhesive	Lifesaver
Awareness	Phoenix Society	Wafer	Barrier
Resilience	Collaboration	UOAA	Confidence
Support Group	Nutrition	Fitness	Bowel

Ostomy Association of the Houston Area

Central Group

Date:	Monday, May 16, 2022
Time:	7:00 p.m.
Place:	In-Person Meeting: Tracy Gee Community Center,
	3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, Texas 77042
Program:	Guest Speaker: Roxanne Warren, Sales Specialist,
	Hollister
Contact:	Denise Parsons 713-824-8841 rockynme2@gmail.com

Baytown Group

Date:	Monday, May 16, 2022
Time:	6:00 p.m.
Place:	In-Person Meeting
	Community Resource Credit Union (CRCU)
	Community room. Avoid the front of the hospital
	(Garth entrance). The CRCU Meeting Room is
	located just inside the door of Plaza 2 on the back side
	of Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital. Park behind
	the hospital (exit off of Baker Rd.) (Contact group
	leader for more information.)
Program:	Guest Speaker: Theresa Johnson, COO and Director
-	of Customer Relations for Stomagienics
Contact:	Cindy Barefield, CWOCN, 281-428-3033

Northwest Group

Date:	Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Time:	7:00 p.m.
Place:	Virtual Meeting (Information is provided in the email
	of your May OAHA Newsletter.)
Program:	Guest Speaker: Ray Nevels, Territory Manager for
	ConvaTec
Contact:	Billy Locke 337-515-6354

Sugar Land Group

Date:	Thursday, May 19, 2022
Time:	6:00 p.m.
Place:	Virtual Webex Meeting (Information is provided in
	the email of your May OAHA Newsletter.)
Program:	Guest Speaker: Daniela Jofre, BSN, RN, OMS, WCC
	on Ostomy Accessories.
Contact:	RSVP to JoanJoan Burnham, MSN, RN, OCN,
	RN-BC, Oncology Nurse Navigator at 281-274-0188
	or jmburnham@houstonmethodist.org

Woodlands Pediatric Group

Date:	Sunday, May 15, 2022
Time:	2:00 p.m.
Place:	Virtual Meeting—Please contact MaryAnne Lewis_
Program: Contact:	for more information. TBD MaryAnne Lewis, <u>maryannelewis@hotmail.com</u> or 281-948-1490

J-Pouch

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

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. For information about shopping cards, please visit the website: http://www.ostomyhouston.org/

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.

AmazonSmile

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of organizations. You can change your selection at any time. To change your charitable organization: Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser. From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page. Select Ostomy Association of the Houston Area as your charity.

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.)



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



SenSura®Mio

The fit is the difference between asking for help and doing it yourself

SenSura® *Mio Convex Flip* has a star shaped barrier to provide a secure fit over curved areas, even when bending and stretching.

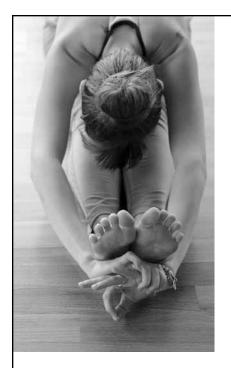
Also available in 1-piece and 2-pie<u>ce Click</u>





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

Membership Application		
	1 , 1 , 1	he following form and mail as Date:
Name:	Phone:	
Street Address:		
City:State:ZII	P:E-mail: (required)	
Surgery Date: Birth Date:	Sex: 🗆 Male 🗆 Female 🗆	□ Other
Reason for surgery \Box Crohn's \Box Ulcerative Colitis \Box C	ancer □Birth Defects □Other	
In additional to English, I also speak the following langua Why do we ask this? We have a patient visiting program and we are occas our membership to assist with communication.		
Procedure or Relationship:		
To help us complete our records, please answer the follow □ Colostomy □ Continent Ileostor □ Ileostomy □ Continent Urostor □ Urinary Diversion □ Pull-Through □ Other: □ J-Pouch	my 🗆 Parent of Child with procedure	Membership benefits include: Monthly Support/Information Meetings, Social Events, Monthly Newsletter
 I would like to attend meetings with the <i>(please cir</i>) Central Group Baytown Group Northwe I would like to become a member but cannot pay d 	est Group Sugar Land Group Wood	dlands Pediatric Group
I learned about the Ostomy Association from WOC Nurse Physician Newsletter Sur		
I am interested in volunteering. \Box Yes \Box No		
I have enclosed an additional \$ as a donation	n to support the association's mission of help	ping ostomates.



Help maintain healthy skin around your stoma with the CeraPlus skin barrier

Ceramide is a natural component of healthy skin. People who have tried the ceramide-infused **CeraPlus skin barrier** have reported visible improvement in the appearance of their skin.⁺

To learn more about how the CeraPlus skin barrier can help support healthy skin from the start, or request a FREE sample, contact us at **1.888.808.7456** or **www.hollister.com/tryCeraPlus**.

†Global User Evaluation. Data on file, Hollister Incorporated. The Hollister logo, CeraPlus, and "Healthy skin. Positive outcomes." are trademarks of Hollister Incorporated. ©2018 Hollister Incorporated.



Ostomy Care Healthy skin. Positive outcomes.