

Caring For Your Child After an Antegrade Contenance Enema (ACE) Procedure.

What is an ACE Procedure?

An ACE procedure is a surgery that lets children give their own enemas through a tube that goes through the belly wall. An enema helps the body move poop through the large intestine and out the anus. This can help keep your child from having poop accidents and treat chronic constipation (difficulty pooping).

This procedure is also called a Malone, MACE, or cecostomy.

What to do after the surgery

- Your child can eat their normal foods if they feel like it. Be sure to have them drink enough fluids.
- Do not let your child swim for 2 weeks (14 days).
- Your child may shower or bathe after the surgery.
- Keep the extension tubing taped to your child's abdomen (belly) for 2 weeks (14 days) to keep the tube from being pulled out.
- You may use your child's tube for enemas 1–2 days after the surgery unless you are told otherwise. The nurses at the hospital will teach you how to use the tube and give your child a flush.
- Your child's doctor will order the amount and type of fluid for flushes.
- Call the General Surgery clinic at 214-456-6040 to schedule an appointment with the Colorectal Nurse Practitioner at 2 weeks and at 8 weeks after the surgery.

Daily Care

- Keep the area around the tube clean and dry. It is normal to have some leaking around the tube.
- If your child has a long tube and not a button, use medical tape to keep the tube in place on the belly.
- Do not let anything pull or tug on the tube or button.
- Try to flush at the same time each day.

If the button or tube comes out

- **Do not panic.** Do not try to put it back in yourself. If it is during office hours, call the General Surgery clinic at 214-456-6040.
- If after hours, call the hospital operator at 214-456-7000 to speak with the on-call surgery team. Take your child, the button or tube, and other supplies to the emergency room (ER) within 30 minutes.

Call the General Surgery clinic at 214-456-6040 if

- Your child has:
 - A fever higher than 100.4°F within 7 days after leaving the hospital.
 - Belly pain even after taking medicines, bloating, or throwing up.
 - Bleeding or swelling at the site.
 - Redness or pus leaking from the site.
 - No poop after giving a flush.
- You cannot flush the tube.