PROBLEM
These patients presented with peristomal skin complications resulting in prolonged hospitalizations. The complications included peristomal pain and itching, skin erythema, skin weeping, and skin breakdown. These complications resulted in lost work time and ongoing expenses. In addition, the patients were unable to go out for fear of leakage due to their peristomal skin care.

RATIONALE
Standard polymeric membrane dressings were applied to the peristomal skin of cases 1 and 3. Silver polymeric membrane dressings were applied to the peristomal skin of case 2. Polymeric membrane dressings help reduce inflamma-
tion, pain and weeping associated with tissue damage. They contain unique components that work together to fill, absorb, and maintain optimal moisture levels. The dressings have also been shown to help reduce the risk of infec-
tion. The silver containing dressings have additional antimicrobial action against multidrug-resistant pathogens to help prevent wounds from microbial infection. The dressings contain a nonirritating cleanser that continually cleanses the peristomal skin. The dressing is intended to be used every 3 days for 2 weeks with pouch changes. In case 2, a cast-iron polymeric membrane dressing was applied after the patient healed around the stoma and was changed daily due to leakage from the wa

PATIENT OUTCOMES
Polymeric membrane dressings rapidly healed the peristomal skin of all 3 patients. Case 1, 1 in 8 weeks, previously used 25 pouch system changes; 2 polymeric membrane dressing changes. Case 2, 1 in 6 weeks, previously used 25 pouch system changes; 1 polymeric membrane dressing change. Case 3, 1 in 12 weeks, previously used 15 hydrocolloid dressings. The peristomal skin of all cases resolved with minimal pain, inflammation, and discharge from the peristomal wound. For patients case 1 and 3, skin breakdown and erythema were prevented.

OBJECTIVES
1. Discuss how polymeric membrane dressings provide an optimal wound healing environment and quickly resolve peristomal skin complications.
2. When decreasing or eliminating wound pain is a goal, consider the benefits of using polymeric membrane dressings, which are non-adherent and can inhibit the necrotic response.
3. Consider the use of polymeric membrane dressings to save costs of supplies and time.
4. Discuss how polymeric membrane dressings have improved the quality of life of the patients.

OUTCOMES
Polymeric membrane dressings not only healed the peristomal skin but they also improved the patient’s quality of life. The use of polymeric membrane dressings was essential for the patients’ use. All 3 in-
dividuals experienced improved quality of life. Case 1 and 3 were no longer home bound. Additionally, the use of polymeric membrane dressings saved both time and supply costs.