

# Hydration

Lee Gavegan
Stomal Therapist
Ostomy NSW Ltd
April 2025

# Disclaimer

Information provided is for educational use and if experiencing any issues please seek help from your Stomal Therapy Nurse, GP, or health professional as required.

If there are any images from companies ONL wishes you to understand there is no one product favored over another. All are equally respected.



- Understand the importance of hydration
- Signs and symptoms of dehydration
- Action(s) to correct dehydration

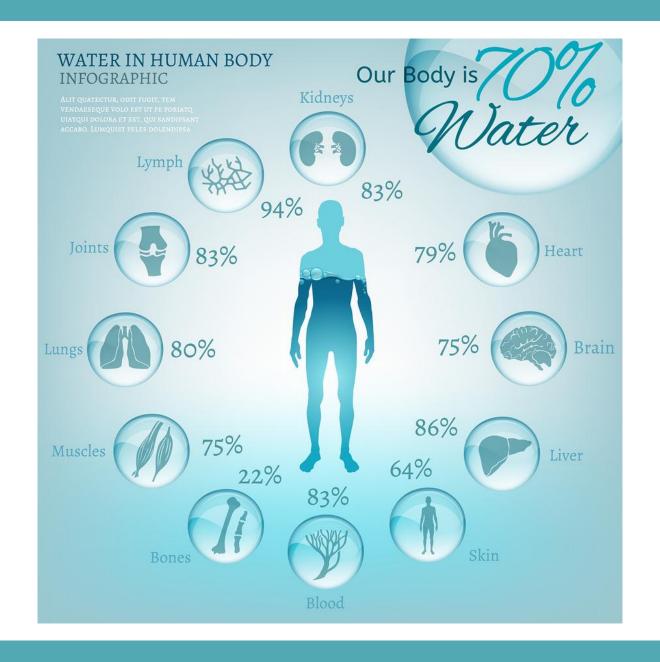
## What is Hydration?



the <u>process</u> of making <u>your body absorb water</u> or other <u>liquid</u>



**Cambridge Dictionary** 



#### Water

Water H2O is vital for our bodies to function

H2O lubricates our eyes, nose, mouth (mucous membrane) lining

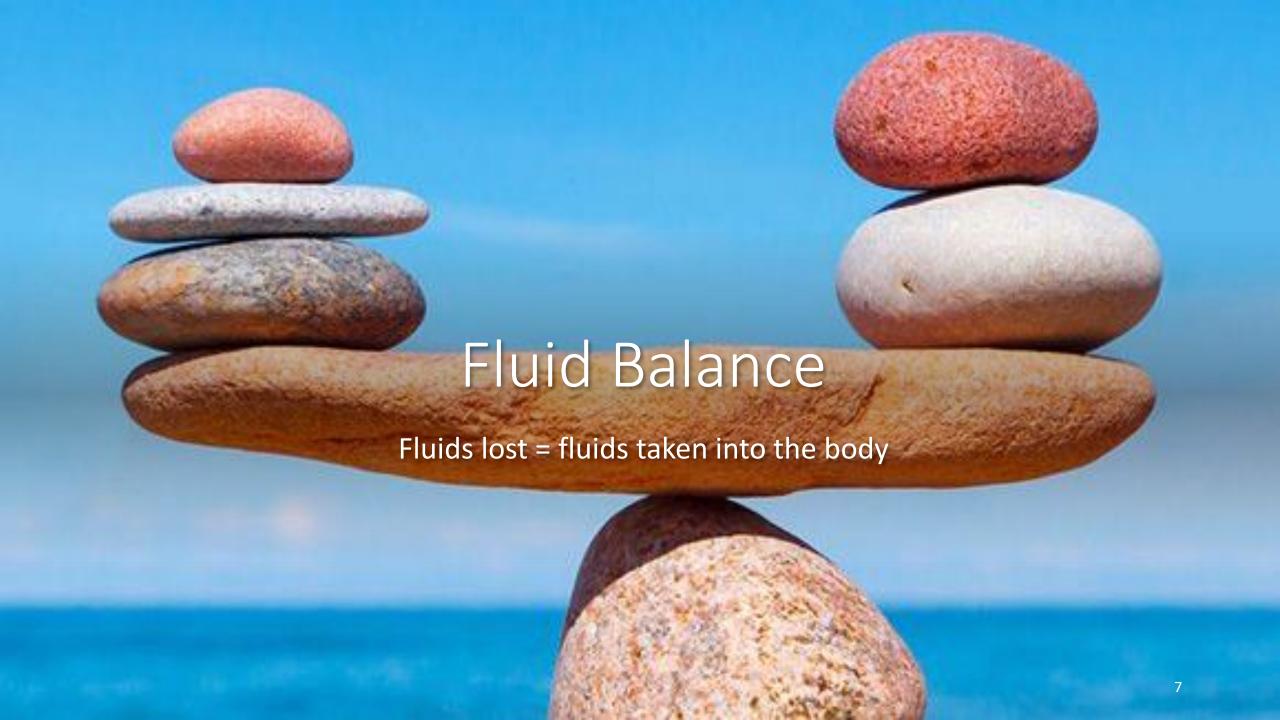
H2O regulates body temperature

**H2O** lubricates joints

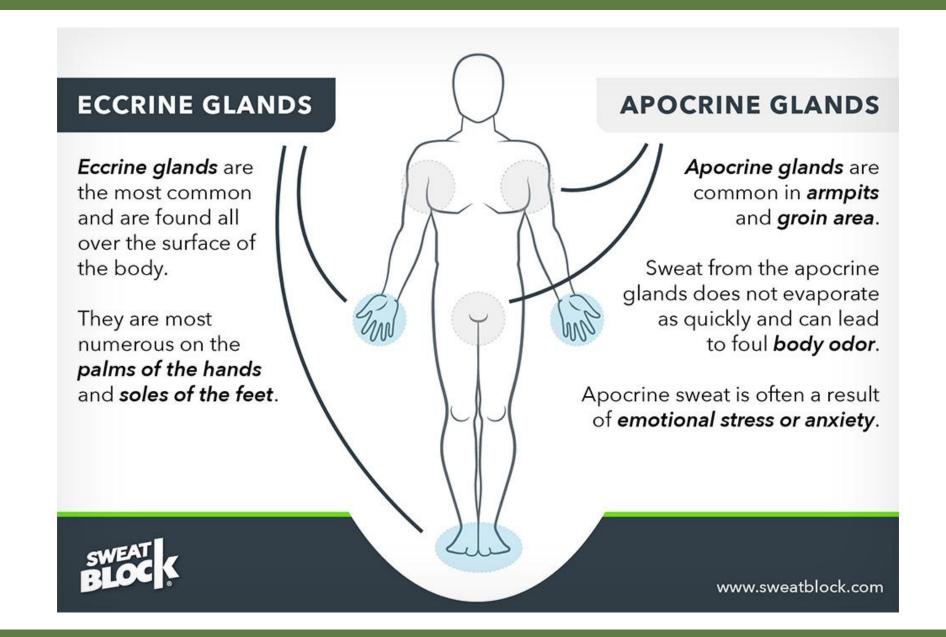
H2O helps flush out waste, ↓ the burden on kidneys

H2O assists in carrying oxygen & nutrients to cells of our bodies

H2O aids in breaking down minerals & nutrients for the body to use.







# Causes of dehydration

High temperature – illness or environment

↓ fluid intake

Heat exposure

Medications (diuretics)

Excessive exercise

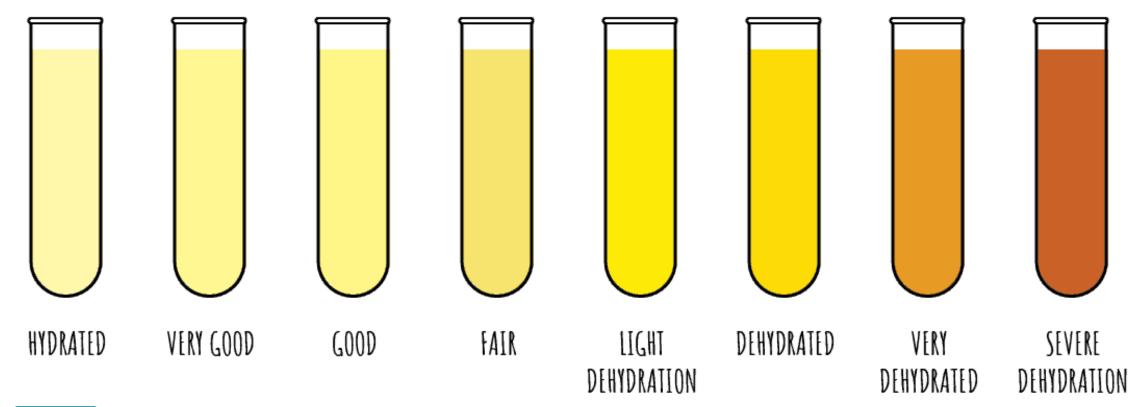
**Urine infections** 

Medical procedures – dialysis

#### How do I know if I am dehydrated?

**†**thirst Dizziness/headache Dry: lips, mouth, skin Constipation/↓ urine & darker urine colour Nausea/vomiting Cramps Palpitations

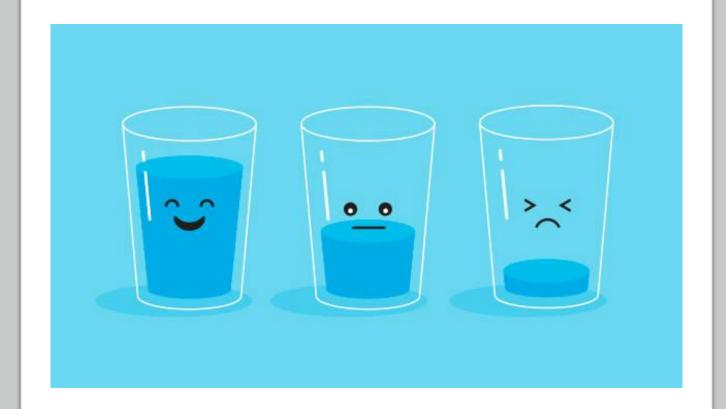
#### URINE COLOR CHART





## Surgery

- Some water is absorbed from the small intestine
- **Most** from large intestine
- When a colostomy is created using the large intestine (colon), to divert the removal of waste, water absorption may be limited to the small intestine depending on location, making hydration more difficult
- Formation of an ileostomy is created from the last part of the small intestine. Water absorption limited to the first two parts of the small intestine = quicker dehydration



# Prevention of Stomal Dehydration

- Awareness of climate
- Caution when exercising
- · Plan ahead listen to weather forecast
- Try to get fluids from ice blocks, frozen drinks
- Avoid alcohol
- Drinking excessive tea, coffee & some soft drinks can add to dehydration
- Drink bottled water in countries where fresh water is not recommended.
- Irrigate with bottled water.





## Tips to stay hydrated

- Water alone will not maintain hydration
- NEED electrolytes as these will have salt & healthy carbohydrates
- Consider foods ↑ fluid content
- Watermelon
- Tomatoes
- Cucumber
- Celery
- Lettuce
- Apples
- Yoghurt
- Smoothies

### Hints & Tips

Drink slowly = > absorption

Eat first, chew well, then fluids, > fluid retention

Drink little & often

Don't wait until thirsty – one step ahead

Carry a fluid bottle with you so it can be refilled as needed (never assume you'll be able to buy a drink).

Add lemon, lime, mint, cucumber, strawberries or watermelon

Some food & fluids are natural diuretics: alcohol, soda, asparagus, coffee

Watch out for artificial sweeteners e.g. sorbitol may cause diarrhoea

# 10 TIPS FOR BETTER HYDRATION







TRACK YOUR HYDRATION





Sometimes water isn't enough







HUNGEK
IS A COMMON SIGN OF

DEHYDRATION

myfitnesspal

# What is a healthy amount to drink?

Individual depending on health

Check urine, straw coloured

= healthy

Clear urine may

= overhydration

6-8 glasses/day/2 ls, some people may need more, some less, individual



- Frequent loose stool
- More frequent pouch emptying
- Signs & symptoms of dehydration may follow
- Persists for 24 hrs
- Need to contact GP, STN, Surgeon
- Options
- Avoid fibre rich food
- Avoid irritant foods (lactose intolerance)
- Some bulking agents may help thicken stool seek advice first
- Antidiarrhoeals available from the pharmacy seek advice first
- Care with medication at these times



# Food to help THICKEN stool output

- Applesauce
- Arrowroot
- Pasta white
- Pancakes white
- Mashed potato
- Bananas (watch potassium)
- Custard
- Cheese
- Rice white
- Tapioca
- Marshmallows ( put in freezer)

# Oral rehydration solution (ORS)

- St Mark's Solution
- Recipe for rehydration solution
- \*\*\* NOTE always check with your GP as rehydration solutions may not be suitable if you have kidney, heart, diabetes or health issues\*\*\*
- 1 litre of water
- ½ level teaspoon salt
- 1/2 level teaspoon of soda bicarbonate
- 6 teaspoons of sugar/glucose powder
- Cordial / fruit drink to taste
- Make one litre & store in the ridge for 24 hrs then discard.

#### Resources

- Google:
- Nutrition for ostomates.com.au
- "The Nutrition For Ostomates Outreach Program is aimed at providing specialised nutritional support for Ostomates across Australia and further afield. Via this service Ostomates can receive professional support from a qualified Nutritionist that takes into consideration individual issues and circumstances after surgery."
- AASTN, resources, patient education pamphlets
- AinsCorp, put in hydration
- Coloplast
- Dansac
- Hollister
- ConvaTec
- Omnigon

