



Established in 1936 as an independent community pharmacy, BLACKBURN'S has grown into a leading provider of home healthcare products, encompassing all levels of medical equipment. Accredited through The Joint Commission since 1995, BLACKBURN'S services Western Pennsylvania, Northern West Virginia, Eastern Ohio and Western New York.

## Calendar of Events

### EDUCATIONAL IN-SERVICES Sponsored by BLACKBURN'S

Tailored to accommodate your schedule and meet the needs of your practice, department or facility, BLACKBURN'S has a full array of in-services available to keep you and your staff informed regarding Medicare guidelines, product updates and other timely topics.

Contact Randy Prunty at (724) 224-9100 Ext: 1226 to learn more.

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www.blackburnsmed.com

pharmacy services ● medical supplies ● dme/rehab  
bariatric dme/support surfaces ● respiratory

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**BLACKBURN'S**  
301 Corbet Street  
Tarentum, PA 15084

*Helping People Live Life Better!*



Accredited Since 1995



*News Script* for physicians & healthcare professionals  
**FALL 2011**



## AIR FLUIDIZED THERAPY BEDS AVAILABLE AT BLACKBURN'S

BLACKBURN'S has expanded our therapeutic support systems to include the AIRUS™ A210, the first portable Group 3 full immersion Air Fluidized Therapy Bed System for providers.

AIRUS™ A210 is an ideal support system for the prevention and treatment of advanced Stage II, Stage III and Stage IV pressure ulcers, burns, skin grafts, and for patients who require unrestricted repositioning. Blue Chip's AIRUS™ A210 offers the optimum in pressure redistribution, portability and ease-of-use for the caregiver and the patient for use in the acute care, nursing home and the homecare setting.

### Redistributes Pressure

AIRUS™ A210 redistributes pressure over the body contact area significantly reducing tissue interface pressure and the forces of friction and shear. The high air flow virtually eliminates skin maceration. This is created by utilizing a high flow of air which diffuses the microsphere beads creating the fluidized support surface allowing for proper immersion and creating an effective microclimate for the healing of pressure ulcers.

### Support Surface

Filtered air is circulated through a medium of silicone-coated ceramic microspheres creating the characteristics of fluid. The patient settles 4-6 inches into the microspheres, redistributing pressure by a permeable filter sheet which allows for the downward flow of body fluids away from the patient. The sleep surface of the AIRUS™ A210 is permeable to the upward flow of air and the downward flow of bodily fluids. Therefore, wound drainage, urine, perspiration or any other fluids, are wicked away from the patient. Specialized microspheres within the AIRUS™ A210 act to disinfect the drainage providing a clean, dry, therapeutic support surface.

### BLUE CHIP MEDICAL'S AIRUS™ A210

Portable therapy bed for  
home and healthcare facilities



PDAC Approved  
Medicare EO194

### Benefit

- Ease-of-use for the caregiver and the resident in the nursing home, hospital or homecare setting
- Portable system
- User friendly controls
- Convenient hand-held control
- Battery backup mode
- 32" x 84" sleep surface
- 29.5" sleep surface height
- Comparable to the Hill-Rom Clinitron™
- Medicare coverage for qualified patient
- Lower-cost solution

To learn more about the AIRUS™ A210 Air Fluidized Therapy Bed, contact a representative in an office near you.

**(Pittsburgh Region)** Nick Rossey 800-472-2440 ext: 1368 or email nick.rossey@blackburnsmed.com

**(Erie Region)** Renae Dawley 800-328-9325 ext: 2612 or email renae.dawley@blackburnsmed.com

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# UNDERSTANDING OSTOMY APPLIANCES

Kathy Liptak, RN, CWON

The world of ostomy appliances can be an overwhelming place. Today there are so many choices available that it can be hard to sort through to find the best one for the patient. With a general understanding of the terms involved and the areas needed for assessment, the choice should be a little easier. Below is a decision matrix for showing the basic features of appliances. There are some unique ones available, but for the most part, the disposable adhesive ones are most widely used. So that is what will be addressed in this article. Non-adherent and reusable ones, as well as custom ones, are also available if needed but are not as widely used.

All ostomy appliances consist of two parts, the wafer and the pouch. How they are put together and look makes the differences. The objective is to get the most comfortable, secure, discreet appliance which the patient can easily apply and keep on for at least 3-5 days.

### One-Piece appliance

- Convex or Flat
- Filter or No Filter
- Drainable or Closed-Ended
- Clamp-style or Velcro-like closure



### Two-Piece appliance

- Wafer (barrier / faceplate)**
- Standard Wear or Extended Wear
- Mechanical Coupling or Adhesive
- Tape Border or No Border
- Convex or Flat



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### Pouch

- Transparent or Opaque
- Coupling Filter or No Filter
- Drainable or Closed-Ended
- Clamp-style or Velcro-like closure



### Leading Manufacturers



**Pouch:** the bag that collects and holds effluence until emptied. Constructed of soft cloth-like materials, they are made to be odor-proof and are made with or without a **carbon filter** depending on the need to release excessive gas. **Transparent** pouches allow the contents to be viewed or **opaque** for more privacy. The bottom of the pouch can be **closed-ended** for easy disposal and care or **drainable** to allow for longer wear time. Closed-ended pouches are good for individuals who have loss of dexterity because of arthritis or neuropathy as well as for those who have formed bowel movements once or twice a day. The drainable pouches are appropriate for those with more frequent or liquid stools. They come with open tails that can be secured by a **clamp or a Velcro-like roll-up** bottom. Urostomy pouches are made with anti-reflux features and spouts in various designs for emptying.



**One-Piece:** the wafer and the pouch are sealed together reducing the chance of leakage at the junction. Generally, they are more flexible with a lower profile, less costly, and are easier to use as long as the person has good visibility of the stoma and dexterity to apply appropriately. Disadvantages include the wafer must be put on in the exact same position and cannot be rotated to avoid areas of irritation or scars and inability to release gas except through a filter or the bottom.



**Two-Piece:** The wafer and pouch come separately and can be joined in one of two ways. These are easier to apply around the stoma due to increased visibility. The wafer can be rotated if there is a need while the pouch will remain in the same position. Pouch can be removed for adequate cleaning or replacement or to release excessive gas (burping) without disturbing the adherence of the wafer. The two types of coupling differ in structure. The **mechanical coupling** has a rim on the wafer onto which the rim of the pouch fits. They snap together. The adhesive coupling secures together with tape-like faces on both parts, which allows for a much lower profile (not as easily detected through clothing) and much more flexibility. The adhesive coupling requires good visualization and dexterity while the mechanical coupling requires dexterity and hand strength to secure an adequate seal.



BLACKBURN'S offers Ostomy clinics on a regular basis in our Tarentum and Cranberry Twp. locations. At the clinics the patient will have the opportunity to view samples of three major manufacturers' products.

If you know an ostomate who needs some assistance or would just like to see what is "new out there", give BLACKBURN'S a call at 724-224-9100 ext.1105 and speak with Tom Houston to set up an appointment.

(continued...)

## BLACKBURN'S HONORED



On August 17, 2011 BLACKBURN'S held an Employee Appreciation Dinner for present and past staff to thank everyone for years of dedication and service. Chuck Blackburn, Board Chairman, recipient of a commemorative watch, recalled the dream of his father and founder Charles E. Blackburn. Ron Rukas, President, thanked everyone for their commitment to patient care. U.S. Senator Robert Casey, in a pre-recorded message, praised BLACKBURN'S for its excellent service while personal staff of U.S. Senator Patrick Toomey, U.S. Representative Jason Altmire and PA Representative Frank Dermody each presented proclamations. Tarentum Borough Manager and past employee, Bill Rossey, also presented the firm with a citation for Community Service. A beautiful plaque with the following words was presented to the owners to mark this special event:

2011



75<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

It began with a pharmacist's *dream* to build a professional pharmacy in Tarentum

Grew through his son's *vision* to expand into home medical equipment and supplies

Thrives as a family *partnership* of generations

*Helping People Live Life Better*

Thank you to all loyal referral sources and patients for 75 great years

BLACKBURN'S ...75 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

BLACKBURN'S Helping People Live Life Better!

Pharmacy

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