This is an Obstetric fistula which MAY rarely heal without surgery – gently debride any necrotic tissue, sitz bath for perineal care, foley catheter x 4 weeks with weekly reassessment, encourage 4 liters fluid intake daily. Recommend surgery if still leaking after 4 weeks.

**LESS likely to be due to Obstetric fistula; MORE likely due to stress incontinence**

**MORE likely to be due to Obstetric fistula**

Consider referral for examination under anaesthesia if urine leakage persists.

Likely to be Obstetric fistula requiring surgical repair

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**DIAGNOSIS OF OBSTETRIC FISTULA**

**JOB AID:**

**Woman presenting with leakage of urine at primary health center**

**MORE** likely to be due to other causes such as stress incontinence

**LESS** likely to be due to Obstetric fistula

**MORE** likely to be due to Obstetric fistula

**LESS** likely to be due to Obstetric fistula

**Consider referral for examination under anaesthesia if urine leakage persists.**

**Likely to be Obstetric fistula requiring surgical repair**

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**Does she leak urine continuously?**

**YES**

**No**

**Diagnose Obstetric fistula**

**PERFORM CAREFUL PELVIC EXAM WITH SPECULUM: IS AN OPENING VISIBLE ON THE WALL OF THE VAGINA? PALPATE: CAN ANY OPENING(S) BE FELT WITH A FINGER?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Inject diluted methylene blue dye through foley catheter into bladder — does the dye stain a gauze placed in the vagina?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Is the client less than 4 weeks postpartum?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Diagnose Obstetric fistula**

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**Does urine pass through urethral opening with suprapubic pressure?**

**YES**

**NO**

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**Does she leak urine continually?**

**YES**

**No**

**Describe fistula: Is there more than one fistula visible? Is it more than 2 cm in size? Does it involve the urethra? Is there extensive vaginal scarring present?**

**YES**

**NO**

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**Does the client also have foot drop or hip contractures?**

**YES**

**No**

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**Is there also stool in the vagina or does the woman complain of being unable to defecate normally through the rectum?**

**YES**

**No**

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**If NO to all of these questions — simple Obstetric fistula — prepare for repair**

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**If YES to any of these questions, likely to need more complex surgery or extensive preparation for surgery and rehabilitation — REFER for first repair where specialist available**

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**References**