## Purpose

1. Monitor residents bowel status
2. Identify constipation
3. Prevent fecal obstruction

# **Procedure**

1. At the end of every shift the nurse on the unit will document the number of bowel movements for each resident in the “Vitals” section of the chart.
2. The nurse going off the overnight shift will run the “Resident Bowel Management Report” found under the Facility tab then Reports.
3. The “Resident Bowel Management Report” will be given to the on-coming day shift nurse.
4. With the first medication pass, the day shift nurse will administer an oral laxative to every resident that has not had a bowel movement for 3 consecutive days.
5. If the resident has not had results from the laxative administered earlier that day, the evening nurse will administer a suppository after the last medication pass.
6. If the resident still has not experienced results from the suppository administered in the evening, the resident will be given a phosphate enema in the early morning by 6 AM.
7. If the resident still does not experience results from the enema, the day shift nurse on the unit will then notify the resident’s doctor for further orders.
8. The nurse or unit manager will contact the physician to set up a routine bowel medication regime whenever a resident is requiring a PRN laxative and enema on a regular basis.