Types of Colostomies

An **Ascending Colostomy** is located in the ascending colon. The stool is liquid to semi-liquid and contains digestive enzymes that can be irritating to the skin around the stoma. You will probably empty your pouch 4-6 times a day.

A **Transverse Colostomy** is located in the transverse colon. The stool is usually liquid to semi-formed (paste-like) because the colon has absorbed some of the water from the stool as it moved through the ascending colon. You will probably empty your pouch 4-6 times a day.

A **Descending Colostomy** is located in the descending colon. The stool is semi-formed (paste-like) to formed because much of the water in the waste materials has been absorbed as it moved through the ascending and transverse colon. You will probably empty your pouch 1-3 times a day.

A **Sigmoid Colostomy** is located in the sigmoid colon. Stool from a sigmoid colostomy is usually formed since most of the water has been absorbed as the waste passed through the ascending, transverse and descending colon. You may empty your pouch 1-2 times a day, or once every 2 days.

Source: Convatec Patient Guide