Terms Used by Family/Friend Caregivers to Describe Incontinence and Related Skin Damage in Their Care Recipient



Terms Used by Family/Friend caregivers to Describe Either Urinary or Fecal Incontinence

Leaking It gets away from them Accident They lose control

Incontinence They need to go to the bathroom

They can't hold it

Urgency

They can't get to the bathroom in time

Terms Used by Family/Friend caregivers to Describe Fecal Incontinence

Bowel problem They soil their pants
Loose bowels They mess their pants

Diarrhea They have smears in their pants

Terms Used by Family/Friend caregivers to Describe Urinary Incontinence

Bladder problem They wet their pants

Urine Problem They can't control their urine

Wetting Se me sale la orina (the urine is coming

out)

Terms Used by Family/Friend Caregivers to Describe Skin Damage Associated with Incontinence

Redness Skin is broken down Light pink or pink color Chapped skin

Discoloration of skin (for Dark-toned skin)

Chaffing

Darker or lighter than usual (for Dark-toned skin)

Raw skin

Excoriated
Thinning of sk

Rash Thinning of skin

Inflamed Cracking or peeling skin

Pimply Dryness

Blistery A different texture

Shiny Excoriated

Soreness Wound Irritation Bleeding

Burning Itching

This document was developed as part of a study funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research, NIH, R03806M38261