The present invention relates to a collection device for collecting body fluids comprising a collecting bag receiving the body fluids and an adhesive wafer attached to the collecting bag for attaching the collecting bag to the skin of a user. The collection device further comprises a monitoring opening arranged on the collecting bag and an opening cover coupled to the collecting bag and capable of being arranged in a closed position wherein body fluids are prevented from exiting the collecting bag through the monitoring opening, and in an open position wherein the monitoring opening cover is rotatable relative to the collecting bag. This provides a collection device having a monitoring opening where the user or nurse can open the cover and physically inspect the stoma or wound site without losing the cover and when done easily rotate it to a suitable position for closing. Thus, by facilitating the handling of the collection device the nurse can focus on the stoma or wound site.
OSTOMY APPLIANCE WITH MONITORING OPENING

TECHNICAL FIELD
The current invention relates to ostomy bags having an opening for gaining access to the stoma while the bag is in place. In particular, it relates to ostomy bags for use during recovery after surgery, the so-called post-op period.

BACKGROUND
Persons who have had a stoma surgery will typically be observed for some time post-op for several reasons, such as observation of the surgical site and to teach the person to use ostomy appliances.

During post-op, it is important that the nurse is able to both visually monitor the surgical site to see that it is healing correctly and to be able to have physical access to the surgical site in order to clean it.

For such use, so-called post-op bags been developed which differ from traditional ostomy bags in that they have a transparent window through which the surgical site may be monitored, and the window may be opened so that access to the surgical site can be obtained without having to remove the bag.

US patent 4,468,227 describes one type of post-op bags.

Although such bags solve many of the needs of a post-op bag, there is still room for improvement. For example, there is a need for the nurse to be able to adapt the bag and the opening and closing of it in relation to the position of the nurse and the stoma which typically changes each time the nurse inspects the stoma.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
When describing the different parts in the following description, the terms distal and proximal will be used in order to facilitate the understanding of the intended orientation of the parts in respect to each other and the user during use. Thus, the term proximal will be used for surfaces and sections of the respective parts that face towards the user when the ostomy device has been properly applied around the stoma, and the term distal will be used for the surfaces and sections of the respective parts facing away from the user.

The invention relates to a collection device for collecting body fluids comprising a collecting bag for receiving the body fluids and an adhesive wafer attached to the collecting bag for attaching the collecting bag to the skin of a user, the collection device further comprising a monitoring opening arranged on the collecting bag, the monitoring opening being in the form of a through-going hole in the collecting bag, and an opening cover coupled to the collecting bag and capable of being arranged in a closed position in which body fluids are prevented from exiting the collecting bag.
through the monitoring opening and in an open position in which the monitoring opening cover is rotatable relative to the collecting bag.

This provides a collection device having a monitoring opening where the user or nurse can open the cover and physically inspect the stoma or wound site without losing the cover and easily rotate it to a suitable position for closing when done. Thus, by facilitating the handling of the collection device the nurse can focus on the stoma or wound site.

The monitoring opening cover can be coupled to the collecting bag via a hinged coupling. Such hinge will work as a guide indicating the direction for closing the cover, thus further facilitating operation of the collection device.

The term 'coupled' as used herein should be interpreted broadly. For example, it should be understood that the monitoring opening may be coupled to the collecting bag in a number of different ways. For example, the monitoring opening is not necessarily coupled directly to the collecting bag, but may be coupled to the bag via intermediate elements which in turn are coupled or directly attached to the collecting bag. Furthermore, the term 'coupled' as used indicates some sort of engagement. However, such engagement is not necessarily fixed, but in some cases, the elements may be relatively easily separated without breaking the elements, or the elements may be otherwise loosely connected.

In one embodiment, a first coupling part is arranged around the monitoring opening and a second coupling part is arranged on the opening cover, wherein the first and the second coupling parts are capable of providing a sealing coupling. This allows for a simple mechanical closing structure which may be easily handled.

In such an embodiment, the first coupling part can furthermore be attached to the collecting bag in an annular attachment zone around the monitor opening.

In another embodiment, the first coupling part may further have a free edge extending from the annular attachment zone in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

This allows the opening cover to be rotatably arranged, for example, when the opening cover is attached to an annular guiding ring, having an inner circumference equal to or larger than the outer circumference of the annular attachment zone, and wherein the annular guiding ring is arranged around the annular attachment zone and between the collecting bag and the first coupling part.

In order to facilitate opening, a first pull tab may extend from the periphery of the first coupling part in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

Additional or alternatively, a second pull tab may extend from the periphery of the second coupling part in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

When a first and a second pull tab have been provided, handling may be further facilitated if the first pull tab is offset from the second pull tab.
In order to be able to monitor the opening when the cover is closed, the opening cover may be at least partly transparent.

In one embodiment, the closing of the opening cover may be further facilitated by providing a guiding aid. This can for example be done by providing the hinged coupling with a pre-coupling arrangement. This is typically done by a set of mating parts on opposite sides of the hinged coupling.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 shows in perspective an ostomy receiving device having a monitoring opening assembly,

Fig. 2 shows the monitoring opening assembly from the front, and

Fig. 3 shows the monitoring opening assembly in section along the line III - III in Fig. 2.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An embodiment of an ostomy collecting device 1 is illustrated in Fig. 1. The ostomy collecting device is formed of a bag 2, an adhesive wafer 3 for adhering the bag to the skin surrounding a stoma and a monitoring opening assembly 4.

The bag is a typical ostomy collecting bag formed of a proximal foil sheet 5 and a distal foil sheet 6 which are welded together along their periphery. As known to the person skilled in the art, the foil sheets could be covered by a non-woven layer (not shown) in order to improve comfort when wearing the bag.

Through the proximal foil sheet 5, a first through-going hole (not shown) is cut out. This is to allow output from the stoma to enter the collecting bag. The adhesive wafer 3 is attached to the proximal side of the foil sheet 5 along the periphery of the through-going hole (not shown). The adhesive wafer 3 is formed of a skin-friendly adhesive 8 which is disposed on the proximal side of a backing layer 9. Such adhesive wafers are commonly known by the person skilled in the art and the one shown in Fig.1 is of the type in the Sensura product line marketed by Coloplast A/S.

Through the distal foil sheet 6, a second through-going hole 10 is cut out. This second through-going hole is arranged opposite the first through-going hole and functions as a monitoring opening through which the stoma may be monitored when the ostomy device is used.

The monitoring opening assembly 4 is arranged over the second through-going hole 10. The monitoring opening assembly is formed of a first coupling part 11 which is attached around the periphery of the second through-going hole and a second
coupling part 12 which is capable of providing a sealing coupling with the first coupling part.

The monitoring opening assembly has an annular shape defining a central axis A - A. The first and the second coupling parts are likewise annular shapes. Seeing that the monitoring opening assembly is arranged around the second through-going hole, the central axis A - A corresponds to the central axis of the second through-going hole, when the parts are assembled and form the ostomy device.

The first coupling part 11 is formed as an annular V-shaped ring 13 having a first leg 13' and a second leg 13". The V-shaped ring 13 defines a first opening 14 corresponding in size to the second through-going hole 10. A first annular flange 15 extends radially inward from the first leg and is used to support a weld in order to attach the first coupling to the distal foil sheet 6.

On the outer surface of the second leg, a first groove 30 and a second groove 31 are provided extending annularly around the second leg and opening out in a radial direction.

The second coupling part 12 is formed of a first annular ring 16 and a second annular ring 17 which are coupled together by a hinge 18. A first annular rim 19 and second annular rim 20 extends radially inwards from the first annular ring 16.

The second annular rim 20 is formed so that it engages into the first groove 30 of the first coupling part. These parts engage very tightly so that a seal is provided when the second annular rim 20 is arranged into the first groove 30.

The first annular rim extends radially inwards beyond the distal end of the V-shaped ring 13. A transparent cover sheet 21 is welded to the first annular rim.

The second annular ring is formed so that it engages into the second groove 31 of the first coupling part. These parts engage loosely so that the second annular ring may be rotated when arranged in the second groove 31 thereby functioning as an annular guiding ring.

It can be understood that the second coupling part may now be rotated around the first coupling part when open, i.e. when the second annular rim 20 is disengaged from the first groove.

In order to easily open and close the first coupling part, a first and a second handling tab 22, 23 extend radially outwards from the first annular ring 16 and the second annular ring 17, respectively.

When closing the monitoring opening assembly, a set of mating parts 24 formed of a tab 25 which clicks into a slot 26 is provided in order to provide a guide for easy closure of the assembly.
CLAIMS

1. A collection device for collecting body fluids comprising a collecting bag for receiving the body fluids and an adhesive wafer attached to the collecting bag for attaching the collecting bag to the skin of a user, the collection device further comprising a monitoring opening arranged on the collecting bag, the monitoring opening being in the form of a through-going hole in the collecting bag, and an opening cover coupled to the collecting bag and capable of being arranged in, - a closed position in which body fluids are prevented from exiting the collecting bag through the monitoring opening, and
   - an open position in which the monitoring opening cover is rotatable relative to the collecting bag.

2. A collection device according to claim 1, wherein the monitoring opening cover is coupled to the collecting bag via a hinged coupling.

3. A collection device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a first coupling part is arranged around the monitoring opening and a second coupling part is arranged on the opening cover, wherein the first and the second coupling parts are capable of providing a sealing coupling.

4. A collection device according to claim 3, wherein the first coupling part is attached to the collecting bag in an annular attachment zone around the monitor opening.

5. A collection device according to claim 4, wherein the first coupling part has a free edge extending from the annular attachment zone in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

6. A collection device according to claim 5, wherein the opening cover is attached to an annular guiding ring, having an inner circumference equal to or larger than the outer circumference of the annular attachment zone, and wherein the annular guiding ring is arranged around the annular attachment zone and between the collecting bag and the first coupling part.

7. A collection device according to any of the claims 1 - 6, comprising a first pull tab extending from the periphery of the first coupling part in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

8. A collection device according to any of the claims 1 - 7, comprising a second pull tab extending from the periphery of the second coupling part in a radial direction away from the monitoring opening.

9. A collection device according to claim 8 when dependent on claim 7, wherein the first pull tab is offset from the second pull tab.

10. A collection device according to any of the claims 1 - 9, wherein the opening cover is at least partly transparent.

11. A collection device according to claim 2, wherein the hinged coupling is provided with a pre-coupling arrangement.
12. A collection device according to claim 11, wherein the pre-coupling arrangement is in the form of two mating parts arranged opposite on the hinged coupling.

13. A collection device according to claim 12, wherein the two mating parts are in the form of a slot and a corresponding locking tab.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F5/445
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC:

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched:

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C

See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

24/01/2011

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Authorized officer

Sanchez y Sanchez, J
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