Fecal Assessment with Abnormal Findings

- Inspect the client’s feces. After palpating the rectum, withdraw your finger gently. Inspect any feces on the glove. Note color and/or presence of blood. Also use gloved fingers to note consistency.
  ✓ See Box 23–1 for information about stool characteristics.
- Test the feces for occult blood. Use a commercial testing kit.
  ✓ A positive occult blood test requires further testing for colon cancer or gastrointestinal bleeding due to peptic ulcers, ulcerative colitis, or diverticulosis.
  • Note the odor of the feces.
  ✓ Distinctively foul odors may be noted with stools containing blood or extra fat or in cases of colon cancer.
  ✓ Distinct, foul odors may be noted with stools containing blood or extra fat or in cases of colon cancer.

EXPLORE MediaLink

NCLEX review questions, case studies, care plan activities, MediaLink applications, and other interactive resources for this chapter can be found on the Companion Website at www.prenhall.com/lemone. Click on Chapter 23 to select the activities for this chapter. For animations, video clips, more NCLEX review questions, and an audio glossary, access the Student CD-ROM accompanying this textbook.

BIBLIOGRAPHY