



Gastrostomy Tube Feeding Training Guide for Unlicensed Staff

Definition

A gastrostomy is an artificial opening through the abdominal wall. A tube placed through the opening, directly into the stomach or the jejunum, and is held in place by a balloon. The tube bypasses the usual route of feeding by mouth when there is an obstruction, impaired swallowing, or inability to consume adequate nutrition.

Purpose

Gastrostomy feedings provide a nutritional support, hydration, and administration of medication when the normal means is not possible or inadequate.

Types of Gastrostomy Tube Feedings

- Bolus – a specific amount of nutrition (formula) given at one time, over a specific period of time
- Continuous (slow drip) – a specific amount of formula given continuously, over a period of hours

Delegation and Skills Checklist for Bolus Feeding

Equipment:

- 1) Prescribed feeding (formula)
- 2) 60 ml syringe with catheter tip/plunger
- 3) Tubing with clamp
- 4) Measuring container

Steps:

- 1) Obtain orders and guardian consent
- 2) Elevate head at least 30-45 degrees
- 3) Insure feeding is at room temperature
- 4) Wash hands
- 5) Observe for distention
- 6) Remove plug
- 7) If ordered, check for placement by injecting 10ml of air and listening for whooshing sound
- 8) If ordered, check residual by aspirating, document amount and follow orders for holding feeding based on residual
- 9) Add feeding to barrel of syringe and unclamp tubing to allow air to escape
- 10) Connect tubing to button and open tubing clamp allowing feeding to flow slowly
- 11) Continue to add fluid so that syringe has fluid at all times during feeding
- 12) Raise and lower syringe to regulate the flow of fluid
- 13) Clamp tube and discontinue feeding if fluid does not flow freely or if discomfort is noted.
Notify School Nurse
- 14) Instill enough water to clear tubing
- 15) Clamp tubing and disconnect
- 16) Replace plug on button
- 17) Cleanse/dry skin around stoma
- 18) Keep student elevated for 30 minutes after feeding
- 19) Wash all equipment
- 20) Wash hands
- 21) Document and notify School Nurse of any abnormal observations



Gastrostomy Tube Feeding Delegation Training Worksheet

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Student _____ School Year _____

Action	Demonstration	Return Demonstration	Check Off
Assemble Equipment/Supplies			
Elevate head at least 30-45 degrees			
Insure nutrition is a room temperature			
Check for residual (if ordered)			
Wash hands			
Prime tubing			
Attach tubing to unplugged button			
Unclamp tubing			
Allow fluid to flow slowly (adjust flow by raising or lowering syringe)			
Follow nutrition with about 30ml of room temperature water to flush tubing			
Clamp tubing and remove from button			
Plug button			
Inspect skin around stoma			
Wash equipment			
Chart feeding and note any relevant observations			
Any difficulties with feeding or unusual observations should be discussed with the school nurse			

School Nurse _____ Date _____

Unlicensed Staff _____ Date _____