Nasogastric Tube Feeding

Your child uses a ________________ size nasogastric (NG) feeding tube.

(Type of NG Tube: ______________________________)

Feed your child through a nasogastric (NG) tube as follows:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.

2. Gather these supplies:
   - Feeding (breast milk or formula) – amount of feeding prescribed + 10 ml of feeding (Placed into a measuring cup, pitcher or bottle and warmed to room temperature. Use a bowl of warm water to warm the feeding. Do not use the microwave to warm the feeding.)
   - 60 ml syringe and extension tube or tube feeding set.
   - 10 ml syringe to check for proper placement of the feeding tube.
   - Feeding pump, if needed

3. Check the tube to make sure it is in the proper place:
   - Attach the syringe to the open end of the tube.
   - Pull back on the plunger to bring stomach contents into the syringe. Look at the contents. Stomach contents can be green, yellow, or clear. If the child has been fed, the contents may look like formula/milk or have food particles in it.
   - Gently push the stomach contents back into the stomach with the syringe.
   - If no stomach contents can be drawn into the syringe, have the child lie down on his left side for 15 minutes and try again.
   - If at any time the child starts coughing or choking, has difficulty breathing, or becomes restless and irritable for no reason (something that is not normal for your child), remove the tube.

   **If you are still unsure of the placement of the tube, contact your child’s health care provider or call the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188. Do not give the feeding.**

4. Give the feeding through the syringe barrel and extension tubing or through a tube feeding set as instructed below.

   Using a Feeding Pump for BOLUS Feeding:
   a) Add the prescribed amount of feeding to the feeding bag or use a baby bottle and screw cap adapter as instructed.
   b) Open the clamp and allow the feeding to flow down the tubing to within 1 inch of the end of the feeding set tubing.
   c) Load the tubing into the pump as instructed.
   d) Connect the feeding set tubing to the NG feeding tube.
e) Turn on the pump and begin feeding as directed:
   (Rate: __________, Dose: __________)

f) When the feeding is completed, disconnect the feeding set tubing. Flush the NG tube with __________ ml of warm water.

g) Rinse the feeding bag and tubing or the bottle and screw cap adapter with cold or cool water. Then rinse the tube and bag with hot water. Lay out on a clean towel to dry in open air.

Using a Feeding Pump for CONTINUOUS Feeding:

a) Add the prescribed amount of feeding (formula or breast milk) to the feeding bag or use a baby bottle and screw cap adapter as instructed. Place ________ ml in the bag to hang for 4 hours. (This is the hourly volume for 4 hours + 10 ml)
   - Use a new bag at night (as directed) and newly prepared formula at night. Hang enough formula to run over 8 hours at night.
   - For babies receiving breast milk: Only 4-hour amounts of breast milk can be hung at any time.

b) Connect the feeding set tubing to the NG feeding tube.

c) Turn on the pump and begin the feeding as directed:
   (Rate: __________, Dose: __________)

d) When the 4-hour infusion is complete, empty the bag of any remaining formula and add another __________ ml.

e) Use the bag for 24 hours unless otherwise instructed.

Using the Tube Feeding Set for a GRAVITY Feeding:

a) Pour the prescribed amount of feeding into the bottle.

b) Screw the plastic dispenser cap onto the top of the bottle.

c) Close the flow regulator clamp on the tubing.

d) Turn the bottle upside down. Squeeze the drip chamber. Allow it to half-fill with formula.

e) Release the clamp on the tubing to let the feeding flow. Clamp the tubing when it is filled with formula.

f) Connect the tube feeding set tubing to the end of your child’s NG feeding tube.

g) Partly open the clamp on the feeding set tubing. Allow the formula to go in slowly – over at least 15 to 20 minutes. The higher the bottle is held, the faster the formula will go in.

h) You can give you baby a pacifier to suck on during the feeding. Hold your baby during the feeding.

i) When the feeding is finished, disconnect the tube feeding set. Close off the end of the NG feeding tube.

j) Flush the NG tube with __________ ml of warm water.

k) Wash the tube feeding set with cold or cool water. Then rinse with hot water. Allow to air dry. Store the equipment in a clean, dry place between feedings.
Using a 60 ml Syringe and Extension Set for a GRAVITY Feeding:

a) Connect the 60 ml syringe to the extension set and clamp the tubing.

b) Remove the inner plunger from the 60 ml syringe.

c) Pour the prescribed amount of feeding into the syringe barrel.

d) Open the extension tubing clamp to allow the feeding to fill the extension set tubing. Clamp it off when the tubing is filled with feeding.

e) Attach the extension set tubing to the open end of your child’s feeding tube.

f) Hold the feeding-filled syringe or attach it to the side of your child’s bed.

g) Pick up your child and hold him, place him in an infant seat or highchair, or leave him in bed (on his right side if he is sleeping).

h) Partly open the clamp on the extension set tubing. Allow the feeding to go in slowly – over at least 15 to 20 minutes. The higher the syringe is held, the faster it will go in. A gentle push with the plunger may be needed to start the flow.

i) You can give your baby a pacifier to suck on during the feeding.

j) Continue adding feeding to the syringe before it empties until the prescribed amount is given.

k) Clear the extension set tubing of feeding by pouring ________ ml of water or air into the syringe after the formula in the syringe has gone in.

l) Disconnect the extension set tubing from the feeding tube. Close off the end of the feeding tube.

m) Rinse the syringe and tubing with cold or cool water. Then rinse the syringe and tubing with hot water. Lay on a clean towel to dry in the open air. Store in a clean, dry place between feedings.

Nutrition:

Children fed via feeding tubes should have the fluid intake evaluated by their primary care provider and nutritionist as follows:

- Children 5 years and younger – at least every 6 months
- Children 6 years and older – at least every year

Safety Precautions:

- Check the NG feeding tube for proper placement before each feeding
- If your child is an infant, hold during feedings. If your child is older, stay near your child during feeding.
- Place any remaining formula from the can in a clean container between feedings. Cover with a lid and place in the refrigerator until next feeding.
- All formula must be used within 24 hours of preparation or opening of a new can.
- Check the temperature of the formula before feeding to be sure it is not too warm or too cold.
• Stop the flow of the formula if your child starts choking or vomiting during the feeding. Pinch off the NG feeding tube. Remove the tube if the choking or vomiting continues after the feeding is stopped.

• If your child vomits, check the placement of the NG tube before using it again.

• If your child is having cramping with feedings:
  1. Try warming the formula a little more as directed.
  2. Decrease the rate of the feeding.

• If you think the tube is kinked:
  1. Reposition the NG tube by pulling back 1/4 to 1/2 inch.
  2. Retape the tube and check placement.
  3. Restart the feeding.

**Call your child’s health care provider or the Children’s Mercy Hospital Information Line at (816) 234-3188 if:**

• Your child has vomiting or diarrhea.

• Your child’s abdomen (belly) is swollen.

• Your child still seems hungry.

• You have a question about the placement of your child’s NG tube or the feeding.

**Call 911 if your child has difficulty breathing that does not get better by one minute after stopping the feeding or after pulling the NG tube out.**