Gastrostomy Tube Feeding

Your child’s feeding schedule is _______ ml of ____________________ formula every _______ hours or at _________________________ times.

Follow the feeding with _______ ml of water.

Feed your child through the gastrostomy tube as follows:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water.

2. Gather these supplies:
   - Feeding (warmed to room temperature, but do not microwave)
   - 35 ml or 60 ml syringe or feeding bag (with or without pump)
   - Feeding tube adapter (as needed)
   - Extension tubing (optional)
   - Warm tap water to rinse the tube

3. Place your child in a sitting position, on your lap, in an infant seat or on his right side (if he’s sleeping). You can give your baby a pacifier to suck on during the feeding. Stay with your child until the feeding is over (for bolus feeding).

GRAVITY FEEDING:

Remove the inner plunger from the syringe.

Syringe Only:

1. Attach the syringe barrel, with the plunger removed, to the open end of the gastrostomy tube, using the syringe adapter if needed. If the gastrostomy tube is a MIC-KEY® or AMT Mini™ ONE button, use extension set – do NOT use direct connection.

2. Clamp the tube.

3. Pour the formula into the syringe.

4. Partially unclamp the tube until the formula starts to go in. A gentle push with the plunger may be necessary to start the flow of formula.

5. Allow the formula to run in over 20 minutes. The amount of time is controlled by the clamp tightness and/or the height of the syringe.

6. Continue adding the formula to the syringe as the syringe empties until the prescribed amount is given.

7. Clear the tube with _______ ml of warm water after the feeding.

8. Clamp the gastrostomy tube or cap the tube adapter after the feeding. Remove the syringe.
Syringe and Extension Tube:

1. Attach the extension set to the syringe barrel, with plunger removed.
2. Pour the formula into the syringe and run the formula through the extension set.
3. Clamp the tube.
4. Attach extension set to gastrostomy tube.
5. Partially unclamp the tube until the formula starts to go in. A gentle push with the plunger may be necessary to start the flow of formula.
6. Allow the formula to run in over 20 minutes. The amount is controlled by the clamp tightness and/or the height of the syringe.
7. Continue adding formula to the syringe as the syringe empties until the prescribed amount is given.
8. Clear the tube with _________ ml of warm water after the feeding.
9. Clamp the gastrostomy tube or cap the tube adapter after the feeding. Remove the syringe and the extension set.

PUMP FEEDING:

1. Fill the feeding bag and tubing with ____________________ formula as directed. Be sure to use a measuring cup to measure the amount of formula needed. Do not use the marking on the feeding bag.
2. Attach the feeding set to extension (if needed). Run the formula through the extension set.
3. Flush the gastrostomy tube with 3 to 5 ml of warm water.
4. Connect the extension/feeding tube adapter to the gastrostomy.
5. Set the feeding pump:
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
6. Start the pump and give feeding as directed.
7. After the feeding is complete, flush the gastrostomy tube with 3 to 5 ml of warm water.

After the Feeding:

- Wash the syringe (and extension tubing if used) with warm tap water after each feeding. Allow to air dry. Store in a clean, dry place or in the refrigerator between feedings.

Giving Medications:

- Be sure to give medications and feedings separately.
- Use liquid medications whenever possible.
- If you must use pills or tablets, mix them with ______ ml of warm water.
- Flush the tube with 5 to 10 ml of warm water before and after medications.
Nutrition:

Children fed via feeding tubes should have the formula and 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

Call your child's doctor or nurse at (816) _______-________ if any of the following occur:

- Your child has frequent vomiting or diarrhea.
- The skin around the tube/button is red and/or swollen.
- Formula leaks around the tube/button next to the skin.
- You are unable to get the formula to flow into the tube (the tube is clogged).
- Your child's abdomen (belly) is swollen.
- Your child still seems hungry.
- Your child has a fever greater than 101° F (38.3° C).
- You have questions or concerns about your child’s gastrostomy tube or feeding.

If your child's gastrostomy tube comes out:

- Replace the tube. Tape in place. Do not use until your child is seen by a doctor.
- Cover the area with a clean cloth diaper or towel to soak up the leakage.
- Call your child's doctor and take your child to the Emergency Room.
- Take the tube with you so the doctor knows what kind and size tube your child has.