

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR BOLUS FEEDING

Extra hygiene practices should be followed at this time.



MANAGING BOLUS FEEDING DURING COVID-19

The following information is aimed at supporting you on how to deliver your child's enteral nutrition in smaller amounts throughout the day/night using a 60ml enteral syringe or a bolus feeding set.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- It is important that you contact your healthcare professional if you need additional training on tube feeding.
- Literature is provided as guidance and should not be used as a substitute for medical advice. Always contact your healthcare professional prior to making any changes to your tube feeding regimen.

EQUIPMENT

- 60ml enteral syringe
- Extension set or bolus feeding set (if required)
- Water (type and volume as recommended by the managing healthcare professional)
- Prescribed enteral nutrition.

HOW TO BOLUS FEED

The managing healthcare professional will instruct you which method of bolus feeding to be used, gravity or plunger method.

- Wash hands before and after handling the tube
- Assemble all equipment required for bolus feeding and prepare on a clean tray or table
- Check the label and expiry date of the enteral nutrition to ensure the correct product is being used
- Your child should be positioned in an upright position of 45° during enteral feeding and for one hour post enteral nutrition administration.

If your child experiences leakage around the stoma (if using a gastrostomy tube) whilst enteral feeding, stop the enteral nutrition and contact the managing healthcare professional immediately for instructions.

If using a nasogastric tube it is important at this stage to check the position of the tube, a pH value must be checked prior to administration as well as confirming external tube cm graduation markings at the nostril remains the same as it was after the tube was placed.

Never administer anything down your child's tube and do not start enteral feeding before confirmation of the tube being in the correct position (the stomach). If you think the tube is not in the correct position, do not use the tube and contact the managing healthcare professional.

NOTE: If using a Button attach extension set at this stage:

- Confirm the tube is in the correct position, if you are unsure, please contact your healthcare professional that routinely places the tube
- If requested by the managing healthcare professional check the pH of gastric aspirate using pH indicator strips to confirm the tube is correctly positioned before enteral nutrition is administered. pH testing of gastric aspirate should not be used in isolation to determine that the feeding tube is in the correct position
- Close the clamp on the tube (if present), and flush the tube using a 60ml enteral syringe with water (type and volume as recommended by the managing healthcare professional).

GRAVITY METHOD

- Using a 60ml enteral syringe remove the plunger and connect the tip of the enteral syringe to the end of the feeding tube or extension set
- Similarly if using a bolus feeding set you should run the enteral nutrition through this first and then connect set to the end of the tube. Ensure all clamps are closed
- Slowly pour the required amount of enteral nutrition into the syringe then open the clamps
- Holding the syringe at a comfortable height above the feeding tube, allow the enteral nutrition to run slowly as recommended by the prescriber. Never attempt to rush bolus feeding. It is important the enteral nutrition does not run through too fast as this can cause unpleasant stomach symptoms
- Alter the height of the syringe to adjust the speed of delivery (rate). Increase the height of the syringe to run quicker, decrease the height of the syringe to run slower. If using a bolus feeding set adjust the roller clamp to enable enteral nutrition to run quicker or slower
- On completion of the enteral nutrition, flush the tube with water (type and volume as recommended by the managing healthcare professional)
- Close the clamp on the tube (if present), disconnect the syringe and replace end cap on feeding tube. Remove extension set (if using a Button).
- It is important your child remains upright at a 45° angle during enteral feeding and at least one hour after enteral nutrition is administered.

PLUNGER METHOD

- The prescribed amount of enteral nutrition should be decanted into a clean container, then draw up into a 60ml enteral syringe
- Have dry clean gauze ready to wipe the end of the syringe to prevent dripping
- Attach the filled syringe onto the end of the tube or extension set and open clamp (if present)
- Push the plunger to gently administer the enteral nutrition using a start stop method. Close the clamp before removing the syringe
- Refill the syringe and repeat these steps until the prescribed volume of enteral nutrition has been given
- Ensure the speed of delivery (rate) is as recommended by the prescriber
- It is important the enteral nutrition does not run through too fast as this can cause unpleasant stomach symptoms
- On completion of the enteral nutrition, flush the tube with water (type and volume as recommended by the managing healthcare professional)
- Close the clamp (if present), remove the syringe, extension set (if a Button), and replace the end cap on the feeding tube.
- It is important your child remains upright at a 45° angle during enteral feeding and at least one hour after enteral nutrition has been administered.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Always seek urgent medical advice if there are any signs of abdominal pain, chest pain or breathing difficulties.