

Nasogastric (NG) Tube Feeding Instructions

How will I feed my child through their NG tube?

There are 3 ways to feed your child using an NG tube. Talk with your child's healthcare team about what feeding practice is best for your child:

- Bolus (Gravity) feeding using a syringe
- Bolus (Gravity) feeding using a bag
- Continuous feeding using a pump

Is it safe to feed my child through their NG tube?

It is very important to make sure your child's NG tube is inserted into your child's stomach before feeding them through their NG tube. See the handout PE3382 NG Tube Inserting Instructions for directions on how to insert an NG tube.

Check that the NG tube is placed correctly using one or more of these methods each time you feed. Use the methods that are checked off.

Look Method

Check that the permanent marker spot, made when measuring the tube, is at your child's nostril. If it is not, remove the tube and insert again. Make sure the tube has not moved each time you feed your child.

pH Method

Pull out liquid from the tube by attaching an empty 10mL syringe to the tube and gently pulling back on the plunger. Test the liquid using a pH strip. Compare the color on the pH paper to the pH test strip chart. You will know that the tube is in your child's stomach if:

- The tube contents are a pH of 6 or less.
- The liquid is grassy-green or clear and colorless, with off-white to tan mucus shreds.
- If your child is taking an antacid or another medicine that decreases stomach acid, the pH may be higher than 6. Talk to your child's healthcare team about what to do if this is the case.

Auscultation Method

Listen for air going into your child's stomach. Use a 5 to 10 mL syringe to push 2 to 5 mL air into the tube and listen over your child's stomach with a stethoscope for "whoosh" or "gurgle" sound.

How do I feed my child through their NG tube?

Determine which way you will feed your child using an NG tube, then choose and follow the right set of directions on the following pages.

To Learn More

- Nutrition
206-987-4758
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

Nasogastric (NG) Tube Feeding Instructions

Bolus (Gravity) Feeding: Syringe

Wash your hands with warm water and soap before each feeding.

Follow steps 1-8 for feeding your child a bolus (gravity) feeding using a syringe.

Supplies Needed

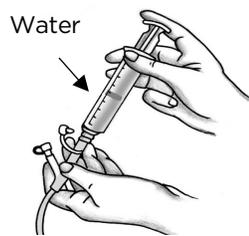
- 2 (5 or 10 mL) syringes
- pH test strip
- Stethoscope
- 60 mL syringe
- Clean water for rinsing
- Liquid food
- Tape (like Replicare or Tegaderm)

1

Check NG tube placement (see page 1).

2

Clamp or pinch the tube closed. Connect a 5 or 10 mL syringe with water to the tube. Then, flush the tube with clean water by unclamping the tube. Flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water before every feeding.



5

Close the clamp and detach tube from syringe.

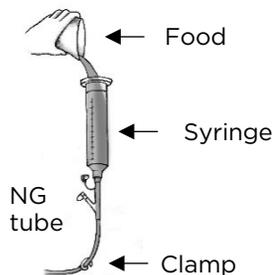
6

Flush the tube with water. After every medicine and each feeding, flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water. This can help keep the tube from clogging.



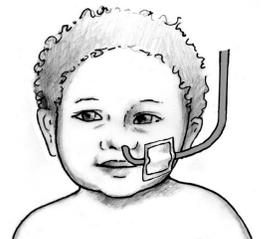
3

Make sure the tube is clamped. Fill the 60 mL syringe with liquid food and connect to the NG tube



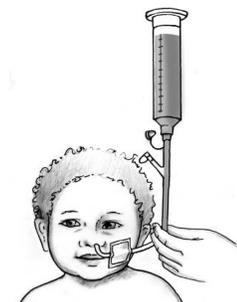
7

Close feeding tube and re-secure tube to your child's cheek if needed.



4

Unclamp the tube to feed. Food will flow through syringe by gravity, usually over 10-20 minutes. Control the flow of feeding by the height of the syringe. The syringe must be above the nose for liquid food to flow.



8

Wash both parts of the syringes in warm soapy water, rinse and air dry after each use.



Nasogastric (NG) Tube Feeding Instructions

Bolus (Gravity) Feeding: Bag

Wash your hands with warm water and soap before each feeding.

Follow steps 1-8 for feeding your child a bolus (gravity) feeding using a bag.

Supplies Needed

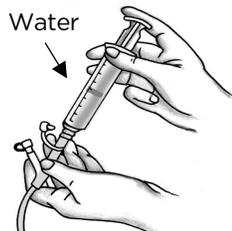
- 2 (5 or 10 mL) syringes
- pH test strip
- Stethoscope
- Clean water for rinsing
- Liquid feeding bag
- (Optional) hanging pole
- Liquid food
- Tape (like Replicare or Tegaderm)

1

Check NG tube placement (see page 1).

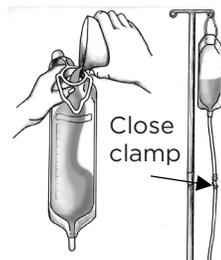
2

Clamp or pinch the tube closed. Connect a syringe with water to the tube. Then, flush the tube with clean water by unclamping the tube. Flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water before every feeding.



3

Make sure the tube is clamped. Fill the liquid feeding bag with liquid food and connect to the NG tube.



4

Unclamp the tube to feed. Food will flow through the bag by gravity, usually over 10-20 minutes. Control the flow of feeding by the height of the bag. The bag must be above the nose for liquid food to flow.

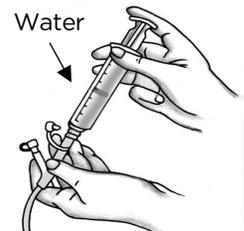


5

Close the clamp and detach tube from bag.

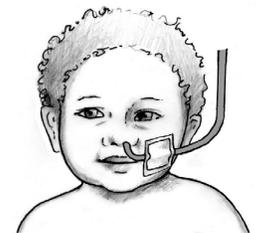
6

Flush the tube with water. After every medicine and each feeding, flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water. This can help keep the tube from clogging.



7

Close feeding tube and re-secure tube to your child's cheek if needed.



8

Wash both parts of the syringes and feeding bag in warm soapy water, rinse and air dry after each use.



Nasogastric (NG) Tube Feeding Instructions

Continuous Feeding with Pump

Wash your hands with warm water and soap before each feeding.

Follow steps 1-8 for feeding your child a continuous feeding with a pump.

Supplies Needed

- 2 (5 or 10 mL) syringes
- pH test strip
- Stethoscope
- Clean water for rinsing
- Liquid feeding bag
- Continuous pump
- Hanging pole
- Liquid food
- Tape (like Replicare or Tegaderm)

1

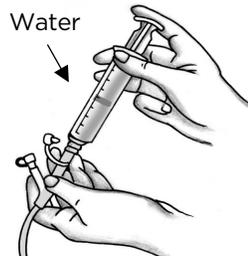
Check NG tube placement (see page 1).

5

Close the clamp and detach tube from bag.

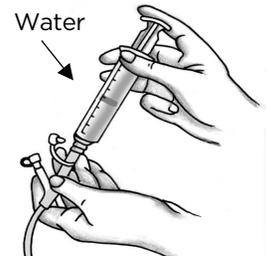
2

Clamp or pinch the tube closed. Connect a syringe with water to the tube. Then, flush the tube with clean water by unclamping the tube. Flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water before every feeding.



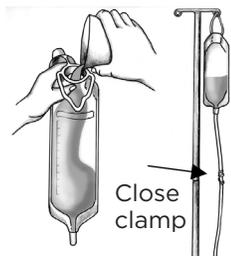
6

Flush the tube with water. After every medicine and each feeding, flush the tube with 5 to 10 mL of water. This can help keep the tube from clogging.



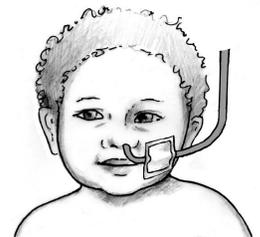
3

Make sure the tube is clamped. Fill the bag with liquid food and connect to the NG tube.



7

Close feeding tube and re-secure tube to your child's cheek if needed.



4

Open clamp to feed. Turn on pump. The pump regulates the feeding rate. The home care company providing supplies will get you training materials. Your home pump may look very different than this picture.



8

Wash both parts of the syringes, and feeding bag in warm soapy water, rinse and air dry after each use.



Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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