

Skills Checklist for Tube Feedings

- The delegating licensed nurse will provide the DD personnel with specific feeding instructions. These instructions should include:
 - ◀ Formula
 - ◀ Amount of each feeding
 - ◀ Number of feedings each day
 - ◀ Duration
 - ◀ Times of the feedings
 - ◀ Tube flushes (amount of water before and after feeding)
- Follow general preparation guidelines.
- Clean the work area, wash hands thoroughly and put on gloves
- Assemble equipment you will need: measuring cup, formula, water, gravity set tubing and feeding bag, 50-60cc syringe, hook or pole to hang feeding set
- Allow formula to warm to room temperature over 20 – 40 minutes if it has been refrigerated.
- Gravity set will need to be assembled according to package instructions.
- Explain procedure to consumer. Provide privacy.
- Position the individual and:
 - ◆ Verify tube placement per delegating licensed nurse instructions - for example, by: **(a)** checking for tube graduation mark position, **(b)** injecting air into the tube with the syringe and listening for air bubbles in the stomach with a stethoscope; or **(c)** by aspirating (pulling back on the syringe to check for stomach contents).

◆ If you are asked to check for residual (the amount of food left in the stomach after a specified time), the delegating licensed nurse will tell you the amount of the residual pulled into the syringe that is too much (a good rule of thumb is to report a residual of more than 50 cc).

◆ **If the residual amount is more than what the nurse has told you is acceptable, do not proceed with the medication administration and notify the delegating licensed nurse.**

- Using the syringe, clear the tube of formula and check for tube patency by flushing the tube with the prescribed amount of warm/tepid tap water. **Note: do not use hot water, and do not heat water in microwave, on a stove or over fire.** Check temperature of water by placing a few drops on the underside of your wrist-if it feels hot on your skin, it is too hot to use.
- Close the clamp on the tubing of the feeding bag.
- Slowly pour the formula into the feeding bag.
- Hang the feeding bag on a pole or hook about 1-2 feet higher than the client's head.



Intermittent Gravity Tube Feeding)con'd)

- Open the clamp and allow formula to fill the tubing removing all the air (before hooking the tubing up to the feeding tube).
- Close the clamp.
- Using the syringe, flush the feeding tube with the prescribed amount of warm/tepid tap water (the delegating licensed nurse will tell you how much water to use).
- Connect the tubing of the feeding bag to the feeding tube using the feeding tube adapter.
- Open the clamp and regulate the flow so the feeding drips in slowly; the delegating licensed nurse will tell you how many drops of formula in one minute to administer.
- After entire amount is administered (when the feeding is finished), close the clamp on the tubing of the feeding bag.

- Disconnect the feeding bag tubing from the feeding tube.

- Using the syringe, flush the feeding tube with the prescribed amount of water (the delegating licensed nurse will tell you how much water to use).

- Detach the syringe and re-clamp the feeding tube.

- Remove gloves and wash hands thoroughly.

- Wash the feeding bag with small amount of dishwashing soap and water, **rinse thoroughly to remove soap film**, and hang the bag to dry.
- Document by following your agency's policy and procedure for documentation or the delegated licensed nurse's instructions for documentation, which may include the following:
 - Interventions to ensure placement
 - Aspirate color and amount
 - Type of feeding and amount given
 - Consumer's response to the procedure

Staff Name: _____ Date: _____

Nurse's Name: _____