

Enteral Nutrition Bolus Feeding

PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

1. Verify student orders are current. Note the type of nutrition to be administered (e.g., ready-to-feed formula), volume, feeding rate or duration, route, and water flush.
2. Explain procedure using developmentally appropriate teaching strategies. Consider self-management goals and encourage participation as appropriate.
3. Perform hand hygiene. Place the supplies on a clean surface. Open packages and maintain standard precautions.
 - a. Formula/feed
 - b. Extension set tubing
 - c. Syringe (60 mL)
 - d. Water flush
 - e. Gloves
4. Position the student comfortably. It is recommended that the student be seated or head-of-bed elevation maintained at least 30 to 45 degrees, unless contraindicated to prevent aspiration. Assess gastrostomy button (herein after referred to as GT).
5. Prime the extension set tubing, then clamp. Attach the extension tube to the GT. The extension tube should have a notch/key that will “lock” into the GT.
6. Administer feed and monitor student tolerance:

Open syringe/gravity bolus feeding: Remove syringe plunger. Attach empty syringe to the extension tube. Unclamp the extension tube and pour room temperature formula/feed into syringe. Adjust elevation of syringe to control the flow.

Push syringe bolus feeding: Draw up room temperature formula/feed into syringe. Attach syringe to extension tube. Unclamp and gently push syringe plunger to administer formula/feed.
7. After administering enteral bolus feeding, clamp the extension tube before removing the syringe.
8. Prepare and administer a water flush. Clamp extension tube before removing the syringe.
9. Detach the extension tube from the button by “unlocking” it from the GT. Close the plug port on the GT after removing the extension tube to prevent leakage.
10. Clean and properly store feeding tube supplies.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CARE

- Bolus or intermittent feedings delivered into the stomach mimic a natural pattern of eating.
- Clean or aseptic technique in the handling and administration of the formula should be used to prevent bacterial contamination.
- Report changes in the student’s feeding tolerance including nausea, vomiting, retching, or abdominal distension.