



# Performing Home Administration of Enteral Feeding via Gravity

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## Four Steps for Performing Infusions:

- Practice good hand-washing **1**    Prepare Supplies & Feeding **2**    Prepare Enteral Tube **3**    Administer and Flush **4**

### STEP 1: PRACTICE GOOD HAND-WASHING

- Always remember to **WASH YOUR HANDS** for a full 20 seconds when instructed.

### STEP 2: PREPARE SUPPLIES AND FEEDING

- Note the amount of formula to be administered and over what period of time.
- Double check the formula to confirm it is the correct type and not expired.
- WASH HANDS.** Clean workspace with cleaning solution. **WASH HANDS.**
- Gather the following supplies and place at your workspace: \_\_\_ Cans of formula; 1 tube feeding bag; 1 60 ml syringe; a water source; a small container to collect fluid; an IV pole; orders; 1 small plastic trash bag. **WASH HANDS.**
- Prepare feeding bag, pour the volume of formula to administer into the bag. Prime the tubing.

### STEP 3: PREPARE ENTERAL TUBE

- WASH YOUR HANDS.** Check patency of your tube by aspirating for residuals. Be sure to disengage all clamps prior to attempting to pull back on syringe. Return residuals by flushing them back through the tube or if residuals are greater than 200 ml, hold feeding for one hour and recheck.
- Flush the feeding tube with tap water 30-60 ml.

### STEP 4: ADMINISTER AND FLUSH

- Place feeding tube and pole close to patient to prevent tension on the tubing. **WASH HANDS.**
- Connect the tubing to the feeding tube and disengage roller clamp. Allow feeding to drip into patient.
- WASH HANDS.** When feeding has completed, engage roller clamp, and disconnect tubing. Discard if not to be used again within 24 hours. Wash and rinse with warm water if the tubing will be reused.
- Flush the feeding tube with 30-60 ml tap water to maintain patency. **WASH HANDS.**

*If water bolus is ordered, your nurse will instruct you on how often to perform and what volume to flush with. Water bolus should be completed with tap water. Sterile water is not necessary.*

Water Bolus Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency: every \_\_\_\_\_ hours