



Performing Home Administration of Enteral Feeding via a Pump

For additional education please contact your agency

Four Steps for Performing Infusions:

- Practice good hand-washing **1** Prepare supplies & feeding **2** Prepare Enteral Tube **3** Start and stop feeding **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. Note that rate needed to meet this goal.
- 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; enteral pump; a small container to collect fluid; an IV pole or back pack; orders; 1 small plastic trash bag. **WASH HANDS.**
- Check your pump by powering it on and making sure the pump operates and has sufficient charge. Power the pump off.
- WASH YOUR HANDS.** Prepare feeding bag, pour the volume of formula to administer into the bag (no more than 12 hours at a time).
- Load pump with tubing and prime the tubing using the prime button being sure to remove all air.

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: START AND STOP FEEDING

- 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 all clamps. Power on the pump and start the feeding.
- WASH HANDS.** Power off the pump, engage clamps, and disconnect tubing. Remove tubing from the pump and 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