GASTROSTOMY TUBE FEEDING

POLICY

Gastrostomy tube (G-Tube) feedings require a physician order and is performed in accordance to procedure as described.

PURPOSE

1. To provide long-term nutritional support.
2. To regulate the flow of liquid nourishment by bolus, by continuous and intermittent feeding, or by the feeding pump method.

EQUIPMENT

1. 50-60cc syringe or feeding bag
2. Feeding pump
3. Water in a small container
4. Prescribed feeding
5. 4x4 gauze dressing and dressing supplies if necessary
6. Cotton-tip applicators, soap and water, basin, washcloth and towels
7. Disposable nonsterile gloves

PROCEDURE

1. Gravity feeding/syringe
   a. May be performed by RN or LPN.
   b. Explain the procedure to the patient/caregiver.
   c. Assist the patient to sit up with his or her head elevated at least 45 degrees. Pillows may be used to support the patient.
   d. Expose the gastrostomy tube. Place the basin under the tube, and uncap the tube, or remove the plug.
   e. Aspirate for stomach contents to verify placement. Reinstill aspirate. If it is greater than 100ml, delay the feeding for 30 minutes to 1 hour, and check again. Auscultate the abdomen for the presence of bowel sounds. Notify the physician of high gastric residuals, absence of bowel sounds, or patient complaints of abdominal discomfort before administering tube feedings.
   f. Pour warm water into a cup. Draw up 50ml of warm water into the syringe.
g. Gently irrigate the tube with the water. If the patient coughs or appears to be choking; do not administer feeding and notify the physician. (Flush the gastrostomy tube with 50ml of water every 8 hours to prevent clogging.)

h. Clamp gastrostomy tube.

i. Remove the bulb or plunger from the syringe. Reattach the syringe to the gastrostomy tube.

j. Pour the prescribed amount of feeding into the syringe, open the clamp, and allow it to empty in, adding more feeding as the syringe empties. Follow the feeding with 50ml of warm water.

k. Clamp the tube before it empties, and remove the syringe.

l. Close the feeding port caps. If the caps are not present, clamp or plug the end of the gastrostomy tube.

m. Clean the peristomal area with soap and water. Use a spiral pattern beginning at the stoma site. Rinse and dry. (Avoid a dressing if possible. Change the dressing as soon as it becomes moist to prevent skin irritation or infection.)

n. Clean and replace the equipment. Discard disposable items in a plastic trash bag.

o. Document procedure and patient toleration, condition of the gastrostomy site and patency of the tube, amount and character of any gastric return, tube patency, gastrostomy site care and any patient/caregiver instructions on the patient visit report.

2. Gravity Feeding/Feeding Bag

   a. Follow steps a through g of gravity Feeding/Syringe.

   b. Administer feeding by feeding bag in the following manner:

      i. Hang a container of feeding solution on an IV pole about 18 inches above the patient’s shoulders.

      ii. Adjust the delivery rate with the flow regulator.

   c. Refill the feeding bag before the container is empty for continuous infusion.
d. Add 50ml of warm water to the bag when the last of the formula has reached the feeding tube to clear the tube.

e. Close the feeding port caps or clamp the feeding tube to prevent a return flow of feeding when changing the bag or when the feeding is near completion.

f. Clean the feeding bag with liquid soap and water. Rinse well, and air dry. The feeding bag may be cleaned and reused 3 or 4 times.

g. Follow steps K through O of the procedure for Gravity Feeding/Syringe.

3. Feeding Pump

a. Follow steps a through g of the procedure for Gravity Feeding/Syringe.

b. Suspend the container from the feeding pump, and thread the tubing through the pump.

c. Make sure the pump is turned off, and put the feeding into the container.

d. Turn the pump on at the prescribed flow rate, and allow the feeding to flow through tubing. Turn the feeding pump off.

e. Connect the free end of the feeding bag tubing to the gastric tube; unclamp the tube and turn on the pump.

f. Intermittently, observe the flow to make sure that the tubing is not blocked or kinked, in which case the pump alarm should sound.

g. Refill the feeding bag before the container is empty.

h. Add 50ml of warm water to clear the tube when the last of the formula has reached the feeding tube.

i. Close the feeding port caps or clamp the tube to prevent a return flow of formula when you are changing the bag or when the feeding is near completion.

j. Clean the feeding bag with liquid soap and water. Rinse well and air dry. The feeding bag may be cleaned and reused 3 or 4 times.

k. Follow steps k through o of the procedure for Gravity Feeding/Syringe.