

## ADMINISTERING A PEG (GASTROSTOMY) FEED

### At Handover

Ask if any residents are on a peg feed.

Ensure that:

- You are familiar with the working of the pump
- Instructions are available
- Supplies are readily available

### General

Store the unopened products at room temperature, not in direct sunlight.

Wash your hands prior to handling the products.

Shake the can or bottle well and wipe the top clean prior to opening.

Administer the feed when the product is at room temperature.

Cover any unused product and store in the refrigerator.

Store the product for a maximum of 24 hours; if not used, discard the remainder of the product.

A new giving set must be used for each feed and discarded after use.

When administering the feed after it has been refrigerated, let the product warm to room temperature by setting it on the counter for about 15 minutes before putting it through the feeding tube. **Never** microwave any tube feeding product.

### Equipment

50ml syringe

Water

Enteral formula as ordered\*

Flask\*

Giving set\*

Gloves

\*You may find that the formula comes in a ready to use flask. Or, you may find that the flask has a giving set already attached

Document Name	Administering a PEG Feed	Authorised by	Head of Education and Compliance
Document Group	Clinical Procedures	Version No	2
Document Number	QMSPR13	Issue Date	14/01/2025

## Procedure

1. There will be an order from a doctor or dietician for the amount and frequency of feeds. If a doctor has ordered the regime, the order will be in the medications chart. Alternatively, a dietician may have written up the regime and placed it in the resident's notes. **Do not give an enteral feed without a valid order.**
2. Assess abdomen for distention. Do not feed if stomach feels full or distended, or if person is vomiting.
3. **To prevent aspiration, elevate head of bed to at least 30 degrees. Ensure the resident remains upright for the duration of the feed and for at least 30 minutes after the feed has finished.**
4. Wash hands, put on gloves.
5. If required, decant the appropriate amount of feed into the flask.
6. If required, prime the giving set by opening the clamp and allowing the feed to run through the entire tubing. Close the clamp. (If using a pump, the pump will prime the giving set).
7. Draw up the ordered amount of water for the flush using the 50ml syringe.
8. Remove the port cover from the feeding port and attach the syringe. Flush the tube using a stop/start flush action to create a turbulent flow.
9. Remove the syringe and attach the giving set. Set the flow rate as per the order (manually or via the pump).
10. When the feed is complete, remove the giving set from the feed port and flush the port as above with the required amount of water. Replace the feeding port cap.
11. **Ensure the resident remains upright for at least 30 minutes after the feed has finished to prevent aspiration. Communicate this to care staff.**

*For trouble-shooting see 'Gastrostomy Management'*

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