

Taking your baby home with a nasogastric tube



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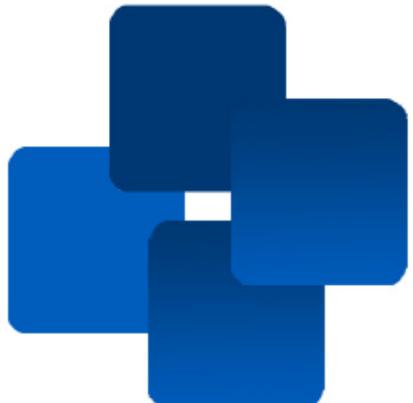
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The purpose of this leaflet is to remind you of the key actions to complete when using a nasogastric tube to feed your baby at home. It is not meant as a teaching tool.

Key actions to complete when using a nasogastric tube

1. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.
2. Collect feed, drugs and all equipment required.
3. Ensure your baby is in a safe and comfortable position.
4. Check the tube is secured in the correct position at the nostril by ensuring the length of the tube at the nostril is the same as recorded on the chart.
5. Place a 10ml syringe into the end port of the nasogastric tube and aspirate half to one ml of stomach contents.
6. Place a few drops of stomach contents onto the pH indicator paper. Match the colour change with the code to check the pH is 5.5 or below which indicates the tube is correctly positioned. **If pH is greater than 6, do not use. Seek advice from your Outreach Sister or Childrens' A&E.**
7. Remove the plunger from the syringe then attach the barrel to the nasogastric tube and pinch the tube.
8. Measure the feed into the syringe.
9. Release the pinch on the tube to allow the feed to start flowing. Raise the level of the syringe slightly to assist the flow. Top up the syringe with feed as required.
10. Administration of the feed should take approximately 10–20 minutes. The higher the position of the tube, the faster the feed will flow. Do not allow the feed to flow too fast as this may cause your baby to vomit.
11. Close spigot.
12. Wash syringe and sterilize.

Frequently asked questions

What if I am unable to obtain any aspirate?

- Check the length of the tube at the nostril is the same as recorded on the feed chart and it is secured adequately.
- Lay your baby on the left side and try again.
- Inject one to five millilitres (1 to 5mls) air into the stomach and wait 15 minutes then try again
- Advance the tube by one to two centimetres (1 to 2cms) and try aspirating again. Stop immediately if you feel any resistance.
- If your baby/child is able to drink, offer some feed by mouth and then try again.

What if I get a pH reading of 6 or above?

- Check the position of the tube as above.
- Some medications change the acidity of the aspirate. Check with your Outreach Sister

Contact your Outreach Sister or Childrens' A&E so that the tube can be replaced.

If you have any concerns about the nasogastric tube, do not put anything down it!

References:

National Patient Safety Agency 2005 Patient and carer briefing
Eastern Region Benchmarking Group
Bapen Guidelines www.bapen.org.uk

Image from:

<http://www.themomcrowd.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/pb090028.JPG>

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Date of publication: October 2010

Author: Outreach Sisters

Reference NG tube v1c

Review Date: October 2012

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