

Discharge Instructions: Caring for Your Nasogastric Tube (NG Tube)

You have been discharged with a feeding tube. This tube is called a nasogastric tube, or NG tube. The NG tube was inserted through your nose and into your stomach to provide you with food, fluids, and medication. Here's what you need to know about home care.

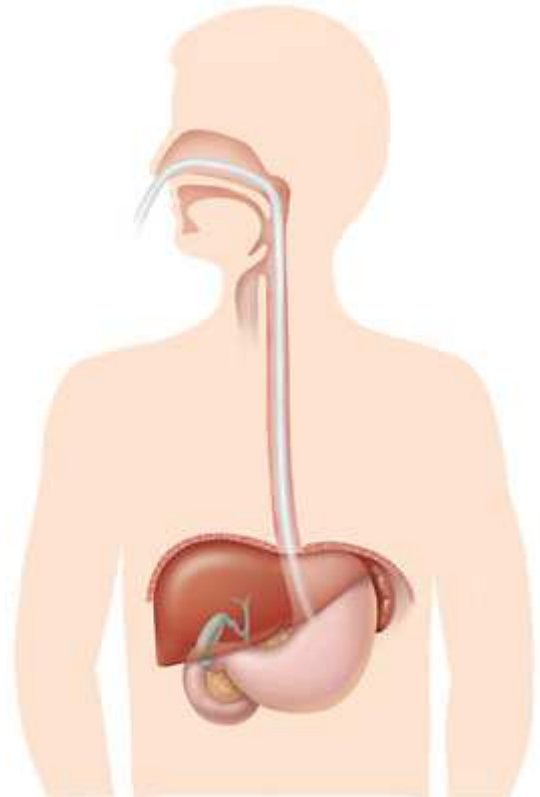
The name of my feeding supplement/formula is: _____

Amount per feeding: _____

Times per day: _____

Guidelines for Use

- Wash your hands thoroughly before starting your feeding.
- Sit in a chair or sit up in bed during the feeding and for 1 hour after feeding.
- Before feeding begins, check to see that your stomach is empty.
 - Insert the tip of an empty syringe into the end of the NG tube.
 - Pull back to withdraw the contents of your stomach.
 - Don't begin the feeding if more than 100 ml remains from the previous feeding.



Gravity Feeding Method:

- Fill the feeding bag with the prescribed amount of formula and run the fluid to the end of the tube. Clamp the tube.
- Connect the end of the feeding bag tubing to the NG port.
- Hang the bag at least 18 inches above the level of your NG port.
- Open the clamp and allow the formula to flow into the NG tube.
- Then allow the prescribed amount of water to flow in.
- After each feeding, rinse the bag and tubing. Every 24 hours, wash with soapy water. Rinse thoroughly.

Pump Feeding Method:

- Fill the feeding bag with the prescribed amount of formula and run the fluid to the end of the tube. Clamp the tube.
- Connect the end of the feeding bag tubing to the NG port. Set the pump rate of flow to the prescribed rate per hour.
- Open the clamp on the tubing. Press the start button on the pump.

- When feeding is complete, disconnect the feeding set.
- Connect the tip of an empty syringe to the feeding tube and slowly push in the prescribed amount of water.
- After each feeding, rinse the bag and tubing. Every 24 hours, wash with soapy water and rinse thoroughly.

Follow-Up

Make a follow-up appointment as directed by our staff.

When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- A tube that is dislodged from the nose
- Coughing or trouble breathing
- Clogged tube
- Weight loss of 2 or more pounds in 2 days
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Vomiting
- Fever above 100°F
- Diarrhea that lasts more than 2 days

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