

## Administering Medication through Gastrostomy Tube via Gravity

### Things to consider:

- Be sure to take steps to ensure patient privacy when performing procedure
- The most significant risk with giving liquids via a gastrostomy tube is possible aspiration into the lungs, be sure the student is positioned properly with head elevated at least 30 degrees
- Encourage the student to assist in the procedure as much as he/she is able to help the student learn self-care skills

### Supplies:

Prescribed medication

60ml catheter-tip feeding syringe

Extension set, if applicable

Warm tap water, if prescribed

Towel or wash cloth

Non-sterile gloves

Student's Individualized Health Plan (IHP) and/or healthcare provider's order

### Procedure:

1. Check for authorization forms/record
  - a. Medication Administration Form
  - b. Medical provider
  - c. Parent/guardian
2. Check for the Five Rights
  - a. Right student
  - b. Correct time
  - c. The medicine container matches authorization forms and medication administration record
  - d. The dose on medication container matches authorization form and records
  - e. The medication is in the correct route as identified on medication container, authorization forms and medication record
3. Ensure that the medication has not expired
4. Explain the procedure to the student at his/her level of understanding
5. Wash hands
6. Gather equipment and place on clean surface
7. Position child either sitting or supine with head up at least 30 degrees
  - a. The most significant risk with giving liquids via a gastrostomy tube is possible aspiration into the lungs, be sure the student is positioned properly with head elevated at least 30 degrees
8. Put a towel or washcloth under student's gastrostomy tube
9. Put on gloves
10. Observe abdomen for signs of malposition or obstruction of gastrostomy tube such as difference in external tube length compared to baseline measurements or abdominal distention

- a. Compare external tube length to tube length measurements obtained after initial placement of the tube, contact parents/guardian and healthcare provider if discrepancy in measurements
  - b. If student has abdominal distention do not administer feeding, instead contact parent/guardian and healthcare provider
11. Fill the extension tubing with water using a syringe with at least 5 cc or ml of water
12. Remove plunger from syringe
13. Open port on the gastrostomy access port
14. Attach the extension tube filled with water to the access port
15. Attach syringe to the medication port on the extension tube
16. Pour prescribed medication amount into syringe
17. Elevate the syringe above the level of the stomach
18. Open clamp on extension tubing and allow medication to slowly flow through extension tubing
19. Close clamp extension tube
20. Pour prescribed amount of water into syringe
21. Open clamp and allow water to allow water to slowly flow through extension tubing
22. Clamp enteral tube and remove syringe
23. Snap safety plug in place
24. Secure medication
25. Wash syringe and extension tubing with soap and warm water and put in home container
  - a. Check with your school nurse about the length of time to reuse any of the equipment
26. Remove gloves
27. Wash hands
28. Document medication administration on medication administration record
29. Follow up with parents/guardian and healthcare provider, as needed

**Resources:**

MIC—KEY LOW--PROFIILE GASTROSTOMY FEEDING TUBE: YOUR GUIDE TO PROPER CARE

[http://www.mic-key.com/media/40679/r8201b\\_mic-key\\_care\\_guide\\_english.pdf](http://www.mic-key.com/media/40679/r8201b_mic-key_care_guide_english.pdf)

MIC Enteral Feeding Tubes and Accessories

[http://www.kchealthcare.com/media/2886710/u4850\\_mic\\_enteral\\_tubes.pdf](http://www.kchealthcare.com/media/2886710/u4850_mic_enteral_tubes.pdf)

Guidance and support to help you manage your gastrostomy tube (g-tube) Capsule Non-Balloon Mini ONE® Buttons

[http://www.amtinnovation.com/pdf/AMT\\_NonBalloonPatientCare.pdf](http://www.amtinnovation.com/pdf/AMT_NonBalloonPatientCare.pdf)

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Kimberly Clark. (2010). MIC-KEY care and usage guide. Available at: [www.mic-key.com/resources/mic-keystar-care--usage-guide.aspx](http://www.mic-key.com/resources/mic-keystar-care--usage-guide.aspx)

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**Acknowledgement of Reviewers:**

Lori A. Duesing, MSN, RN, CPNP-AC  
*Advanced Practice Nurse*  
*Department of Gastroenterology*  
*Children's Hospital of Wisconsin*

Kathy Leack, MS, RN, CNS  
*Advanced Practice Nurse*  
*Children's Hospital of Wisconsin*