

PATIENT EDUCATION

Administration of Enteral Feeding by Gravity Method

Properly administering your medication at home is important to your safety. In the event of an emergency, call 911.

SUPPLIES:

- Formula
- IV Pole
- Gravity bag set
- 60 cc. syringe for flushing

PROCEDURE:

1. Clean work area. Wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds. Gather supplies.
2. Remove gravity feeding bag with tubing from package.
3. Close the roller clamp on the tubing.
4. Fill the bag with the proper amount of formula and close bag securely at the top. **No more than 8 hours of feeding should be filled at a time. Refill bag as needed after 8 hours. This will help reduce possible bacteria growth.**
5. Hang the bag on the IV pole.
6. Fill the drip chamber as instructed by your nurse. **NOTE: Fill the drip chamber slowly, allowing formula to reach level of score mark; not above.**
7. Prime the tubing with formula by slowly opening the roller clamp until fully primed. Close the roller clamp.
8. Flush your feeding tube as instructed by your nurse.
9. Connect the tubing to your feeding tube by inserting tip of the tubing into the end of your feeding tube attachment. You may secure this connection with a piece of tape if necessary.
10. Slowly open roller clamp and adjust to set feeding at prescribed rate.

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11. When the formula has infused and feeding is complete, close the roller clamp on the tubing. Disconnect the tubing from your feeding tube.
12. Flush your feeding tube as instructed by your nurse.
13. Rinse the feeding bag set with warm water between feedings. Allow to air dry.
14. **DISCARD THE USED FEEDING BAG SET AND USE A NEW SET EVERY 24 HOURS.**
15. Wash Hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds.

ENTERAL PRODUCT STORAGE GUIDELINES:

General Temperature Guidelines

General recommended storage temperature ranges for your nutritional product is between 32- and 95- degrees Fahrenheit (F). The most desirable temperature range for storage of unopened containers is room temperature, between 55- and 75- degrees F. Storage at these temperatures will assure the highest-quality product.

Unopened products should be stored in a cool, dry area. Prolonged exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees F or to direct heat above 95 degrees F could affect the physical consistency of the product.

Extreme Storage Conditions

Do not freeze formula products or store at greater than 95 degrees F. Excess temperatures, even for short time periods, can cause physical changes in the products, rendering them undesirable or unusable.

Additional Powder Storage Recommendations

Powdered formula should be used within one month from opening. Although the powders will not "spoil" from a microbiological perspective, some of the vitamins and fatty acids will degrade over time when exposed to oxygen. Powdered nutritional products should be stored in a cool, dry area. Opened powder cans should be covered; they should not be stored in the refrigerator.



The information included in this document is intended for informational and educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace medical advice offered by a physician or other qualified health provider. If you think you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911 immediately.

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