

Procedure for Skin-Level Gastrostomy Device (G-Button) Feeding—Bolus Method

1. Wash hands.
2. Gather and assemble equipment: Note: Equipment and feeding supplies are provided by family.
 - Liquid formula or feeding solution, at room temperature
 - 60 ml catheter-tipped syringe or other feeding container for feeding
 - Adaptor with tubing and clamp (varies with type of device)
 - Water (to flush tubing before and after feeding)
 - Rubber bands and safety pins (to secure G tube to clothing)
 - Gloves
3. Identify size and type of gastrostomy device.
4. Shake can well to mix formula and note expiration date. It is recommended that students receive a ready-to-feed commercial formula. Generally, opened formula must be used within 24-48 hour. Check student IHP for storage instructions. Tube feedings should be administered at room temperature. Some students get cramps if the feeding solution is too cold This may be achieved by holding the container with the formula under warm water for several minutes. A microwave should not be used for this procedure due to its uneven heat distribution.
5. Measure prescribed amount of formula to be infused.
6. Position student upright as specified in student plan. Students usually sit (or may lie on their right side with their head elevated) during feeding.
7. Inspect skin at gastrostomy site for redness, tenderness, swelling or irritation, or presence of drainage or gastric leakage. Report abnormal findings to school nurse and family.
8. Wash hands and put on gloves.
9. Rotate (turn 90 degrees) external stabilizer/bolster according to student's IHP, if ordered. This may help prevent adhesions.
10. Open the safety plug on the gastrostomy device.
11. Insert adaptor and tubing into gastrostomy device according to manufacturer instructions (some adaptors lock by lining up two black guide lines). Stabilize the button to avoid pushing it into the student's belly. Hold firmly by the feeding port (not the flange).
12. Flush with 10-30 ml tepid tap water before feedings or medications to verify placement and functionality. Follow guidelines in student's IHP.
13. Administer medication, if prescribed, either before or after a feeding, as specified in student's IHP. Use liquid medication, if possible. Flushing with water between each medication and not mixing the medications can help to prevent clogging of tube. If the liquid is thick, it might need to be diluted with a little water to prevent clogging.
14. Remove plunger from syringe and attach the adaptor tubing to the feeding syringe.
15. Slowly pour feeding/fluid into syringe and allow to flow in by gravity. If a container other than a syringe is used for the feeding, unclamp tubing and allow it to flow in by gravity, using the same procedure. The flow of feeding may need to be initiated by placing plunger into barrel of syringe and depressing slightly to get it started (and then remove plunger). Be alert to any unusual changes in the student's tolerance of the feeding. Nausea/vomiting, cramping, or diarrhea may indicate that the feeding is being given too quickly or formula is too cold.
16. Continue to pour feeding into syringe as contents empty into stomach. Keep syringe partially filled to prevent air from entering stomach. Depending on the age and capabilities of the student, have

him/her assist with the feeding by holding syringe or pouring fluid into it. Provide oral stimulation, if ordered. Stomach h VDH Guidelines for Healthcare Procedures in Schools 118

17. Raise or lower syringe or container to adjust flow to prescribed rate. The higher the syringe is held, the faster the feeding will flow into the stomach.
18. When feeding is completed, pour prescribed amount of water into syringe and flush tubing. This will clear tubing of feeding and medication.
19. Clamp adapter tubing, remove from gastrostomy device, and close safety plug into gastrostomy device.
20. Refer to student's IHP regarding positioning and activity after feeding. Usually student should remain upright for at least thirty minutes.
21. Wash syringe and other reusable equipment in soapy water. Rinse thoroughly, dry, and store appropriately. Open formula is good for 24-48 hours. Check label or student's IHP to determine how long it may safely be used. Open formula should be stored in the refrigerator in clean plastic containers (not the original can), labeled with the date it was opened. Discard any open formula after 48 hours.
22. Remove gloves. Wash hands.
23. Document feeding, any medication, feeding tolerance, and any concern about gastrostomy site in student's log and notify family of any changes or concerns.