

Enteral Medicine Administration- NG Tube

- Ask your pharmacy to provide all medicines in liquid form if possible.
- If liquid form is not available, you will need to crush tablets or open capsules and dissolve in water.
 - Some medicine may need to be dissolved in a liquid other than water. Your pharmacist will tell you what liquid to use.

How to crush medicines:

- 1. Always ask your pharmacy before crushing tablets. Some medicines cannot be crushed.
- 2. Use a pill crusher to crush the pill into a powder. You want the crush out all the clumps since they can clog the tube.
- 3. Combine the powder with a few mls of water and mix until it is dissolved. Draw up the mixture into a syringe.
 - o If the consistency is too thick, add a few more mls of water.

How to open a capsule medicine:

- 1. Always ask your pharmacy before opening a capsule medicine. Some capsules should not be opened.
- 2. Hold the capsule over a small cup and twist open.
- 3. Pour the medicine out of the capsule into the cup and throw away the outer shell.
- 4. Combine the powder with a few mls of water and mix until it is dissolved. Draw up the mixture into a syringe.
 - a. If the consistency is too thick, add a few more mls of water.

How to administer medicines through your child's NG tube:

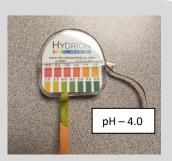
- 1. Check the placement on the NG tube to make sure it is in the stomach.
 - a. Take an empty syringe and pull back the plunger to 5mL.
 - b. Find the end of your child's NG tube and pinch or bend the tube to prevent the tube from leaking when you open the port at the end.
 - c. Open the port and attach the air-filled syringe to the NG tube.
 - d. Gently push the air into the NG tube. This will clear the tube of any formula or water which would alter the pH.
 - e. Pull back on the plunger to get a small amount of liquid from your child's stomach.
 - f. Put the liquid from the syringe on a piece of pH paper.
 - g. Compare the color of the wet pH paper to the package which tells you the pH of the liquid on the paper.
 - i. The pH of the liquid should be 1.5-5.5.
 - ii. If the pH is 6 or higher, wait 30 minutes and repeat the pH test.

NOTES:

- **A tube feed will need to be turned off for 15-30 minutes before checking placement to get an accurate pH.
- **If you give your child any medicine that decreases acid in the stomach, check pH before giving the medicine. You will then need to wait at least 4 hours before checking gastric pH again.
- **See "Nasogastric Tube/NG Tube" document for troubleshooting tips.







- 2. Find the end of your child's NG tube and pinch the tube to prevent the tube from leaking when you open the port at the end.
- 3. Attach the medicine syringe to the port of the tube and slowly push all the medicine into the tube.
- 4. Pinch the tube to prevent leaking.
- 5. Repeat as necessary until all medicine have been given.
- 6. Attach a syringe filled with 5-10mls of water to the port.
- 7. Flush the tube with the water.
- 8. Pinch the tube, remove the syringe, and close the port.



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