



## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PMH and NETS WA

# Gastric Tube Feeding : by Parents in NICU

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

Parents can hold the syringe whilst their infant is receiving a tube feed provided the following criteria is met:

1. The parent wishes to do so.
2. The infant can be in an incubator or open cot, or the parent maybe holding the infant.
3. The infant has been on full 2 hourly feeds for more than 24 hours OR has been on full 3 hourly feeds for more than 24 hours.
4. The nurse has instructed the parent on how to hold the syringe and how to kink the tube if:
  - a) The infant is vomiting or distressed, has trouble breathing or coughs excessively during the feed
  - b) Tape lifting or not securing the tube adequately.
  - c) Baby has a colour change.
  - d) Monitor alarming.
  - e) The competency package is completed and signed.
5. Nurse to sign parent competency for holding syringe found [here](#).



Parents can be offered the option to tube feed their infant if the following criteria have been met:

Please note: Tube feeds by a parent are to be performed in the presence of nursing staff.

1. Senior Medical/CNC approval has been obtained and documented on the infant's 'Tube Feeding Pack' refer to [Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents NGT Feeding](#).
2. Infant is not ventilated (including nasal CPAP/HHF).
3. Infant is tolerating **full** enteral feeds and medically stable. Normally this will not occur before the infant reaches 1200 grams.
4. The parent has expressed a willingness to take on the procedure, has received education as per the [Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents NGT Feeding](#) and is assessed as safe (competent) in performing a tube feed for their infant.
5. The infant is due a tube feed.
6. If a top up tube feed is required after a breastfeed.
7. Infants must be returned to the incubator/cot for tube feeds by parents.

Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

- [Neonatal Clinical Guideline - Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents NGT Feeding](#)
- [Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents Holding Syringe](#)

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