



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PCH and NETS WA

Gastric Tube Feeding : by Parents in the NICU

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

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

NOTE: Tube feeds by a parent **must** 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'.
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](#)

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