



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PCH and NETS WA

Gastric Tube Feeding: Syringe Holding During Feeds 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 are 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](#).

Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

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

Document owner:	Neonatal Directorate Management Committee		
Author / Reviewer:	Neonatal Directorate Management Committee		
Date first issued:	June 2006		
Last reviewed:	12 th January 2018	Next review date:	12 th January 2021
Endorsed by:	Neonatal Directorate Management Committee	Date endorsed:	23 rd May 2017
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 1 Governance, 2 Consumers		

**Printed or personally saved electronic copies of this document are considered uncontrolled.
Access the current version from the WNHS website.**