

Instructions for Administering a Tube Feeding by GRAVITY

- **The following are general guidelines for administering a tube feeding by gravity.**
- **Before initiating tube feeding, follow facility's instructions to check the position of the feeding tube.**
- **Please note this information is NOT a substitute for clinical judgment regarding appropriate tube feeding administration.**

Supplies

1. Feeding container and tubing (gravity set)
2. Formula (room temperature)
3. Pole
4. Syringe (60 mL)
5. Water (room temperature)

Preparation

1. Wash hands thoroughly.
2. Rinse the top of the formula container with hot water or wipe with clean wet paper towel.
3. Shake formula container well before opening.
4. Use syringe to flush feeding tube with water, as directed.
5. Pour formula into feeding container and close cap.
6. Hang feeding container on pole so it is at least 18 inches above patient.
7. If using a pre-filled feeding container, shake and connect as directed.
8. Open clamp on flow regulator until the formula fills the tubing.
9. Close clamp on the flow regulator.
10. Make sure drip chamber on the tubing is about half full.

Administration

1. If possible, elevate head of bed at least 30 degrees and have patient remain in this position for 30 to 60 minutes after each feeding.
2. Open (unclamp or uncap) feeding tube.
3. Connect tip on the end of gravity set into feeding tube.
4. Open flow regulator clamp to adjust flow rate, as directed.
5. After feeding, close and disconnect gravity set from feeding tube.
6. Use syringe to flush feeding tube with water, as directed.
7. Close (reclamp or recap) feeding tube.