Registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) are frequently being called upon to place feeding tubes in adult patients.

ASPN has compiled this list of feeding tube placement resources to help RDNs elevate to the expert level. All resources include a link for easy access.

According to the 2021 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition: Revised Standards, Standard 3, Nutrition Intervention/Plan of Care, The dietitian at the expert level inserts nasogastric or nasoenteric feeding tubes. NCP 2021;36(6):1126-1143, Supporting Information.

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**ASPEN Tube Feeding Placement Resources**

- Development of a Competency Model for Placement and Verification of Nasogastric/Nasoenteric Feeding Tubes for Adult Hospitalized Patients Fact Sheet, Nutritioncare.org/NG-NE-FeedingTube-Factsheet.
- ASPEN Bedside Feeding Tube Placement Competency Tool Checklist, Nutritioncare.org/FeedingTube-Checklist.

» Verify order for tube placement
» Review patient health history for any contraindications to tube placement
» Obtain verbal informed consent if applicable
» Gather appropriate supplies
» Perform hand hygiene
» Introduce self to patient, explain procedure, and offer comfort measures as indicated
» Confirm patient identity according to policy
» Place patient in the appropriate position
» Place tube according to policy and technique for facility
» Secure tube with tape, transparent dressing, or a commercial fixation device
» Educate patient and family as appropriate
» Document tube placement according to policy
» Verify proper tube placement prior to use, per policy

**Safe Practices for Tube Placement, Verification, and Securement**

**Placement Techniques**

- Blind placement
- Direct visualization placement
- Real time indirect visualization placement

**Tube Tip Verification**

- X-Ray
- pH
- Electromagnetic placement devices
- Capnography
- Camera
- Ultrasound

**Tube Securement**

- Tape, nasal tube
- Transparent dressing
- Nasal securement technology (bride)
Tube Feeding Placement Resources from Other Organizations or Companies

- Enteral Nutrition Video Inventory: The ASPEN Enteral Nutrition Committee has compiled these helpful external resources for both clinicians and consumers. ASPEN does not endorse any brand of product nor are these listings a substitute for medical or other professional advice and should not be taken as such. Nutritioncare.org/ENvideos.

- Dietitians in Nutrition Support Small Bowel Feeding Tube Insertion Toolkit. dnsdpg.org/store.cfm.

Select Publications on Feeding Tube Placement for the Dietitian


Other Recent Related Publications


General EN ASPEN Resources


- When is enteral nutrition indicated? *JPEN* 2022;46(7):1470-1496.