

THE SHREWSBURY & TELFORD HOSPITAL NHS TRUST

NEONATAL UNIT

NASO-GASTRIC TUBE FEEDING BY PARENTS

As parents you are being given the opportunity to learn to feed your baby via a naso-gastric tube. Undertaking tube feeding should be a joint decision between you and the nursing staff and should only be done if you are happy to do so. Please remember you do not have to do this if you do not wish to and if at any point you are unhappy feeding your baby this way please let the nursing staff know.

The nursing staff will teach you how to feed your baby via the naso-gastric tube. You will be supervised whilst doing the feed for at least three feeds and until you feel comfortable with the procedure.

You will be given a set of guidelines to guide you through the correct procedure.

Whilst your baby is in hospital please check with the nurse looking after your baby before commencing to feed, as feed times may have changed or changes in care may have occurred.

Please remember the nursing staff are here to help you. If you have any worries or anxieties about undertaking naso-gastric tube feeding please discuss them with us.

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A GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS FEEDING VIA
A NASO-GASTRIC TUBE

Brief Description

A method of feeding baby when oral feeding is not possible or desirable. This guideline can be followed post discharge from hospital as appropriate.

Hazards

Aspiration of milk feed if naso-gastric tube misplaced.

Equipment

10ml/20ml syringe (depending on amount of feed to be given)
2ml syringe (for aspirating naso-gastric tube prior to commencing feed)
pH sticks – to check naso-gastric is positioned in the stomach.
Measured amount of milk feed at room temperature.

Procedure

- Ensure baby is clean and comfortable
- Wash hands prior to commencing feed
- Place baby in a cot facing you so that baby can be observed during the feed.
- Check for signs of tube displacement
- Aspirate the naso-gastric feeding tube using a 2ml syringe. Place some of the aspirate onto the pH strip.
- Compare the colour of the pH strip with the pH strip container colour chart. The acceptable reading prior to commencing feeding should be a pH 5.5 or below.

DO NOT COMMENCE FEED if

- a) Aspirate not obtained
- b) pH is 6 or above

Advice should be sort from nursing staff on how to proceed should the pH read 6 or above or no gastric aspirate is obtained.

If the pH strip indicates a reading of 5.5 or below feeding may commence.

Attach the barrel of the 10ml/20ml syringe to the naso-gastric feeding tube.

Fill the barrel with the milk feed, topping up as necessary until the correct volume has been given.

The piston of the syringe may be used to commence feeds but should not be used continually. When the feed is completed remove the barrel and reseal the naso-gastric tube with cap.

Observe the baby carefully during the feed. If the baby vomits or has any colour change whilst being fed discontinue feeding by pinching the naso-gastric tube and tipping the milk back into the bottle.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

NASO GASTRIC TUBE FEEDING TEACHING PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS

Name:	DATE	SIGNATURE
Demonstration Feed:		
Comments:		
Supervised Feeds:		
1		
2		
3		
Comments:		
Parents able to tube feed?		
Comments:		