



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
CLINICAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: GASTROSTOMY FEEDING TUBES,
REINSERTION AFTER ACCIDENTAL
REMOVAL

Policy No.: C146.10
Effective Date: 11/1990

Page: 1 of 2

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE: Gastrostomy tube reinsertion when accidentally dislodged or removed.

PHYSICIAN'S ORDER REQUIRED: Yes

PERFORMED BY: RN

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Gloves
4 x 4 gauze pads or drain sponges
Water soluble lubricant
Indwelling catheter
6 mls syringe with sterile water (for the balloon)
60 mls catheter tip syringe
Stethoscope
Catheter plug
Tape
Trash bag
0.9% Normal Saline

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1. If gastrostomy tube becomes dislodged or accidentally removed, call physician to obtain an order for indwelling catheter insertion as a temporary measure to maintain patent tract.
KEY POINT: If gastrostomy tube was inserted less than 6 weeks prior, call physician to replace.

PROCEDURAL STEPS:

1. Position patient supine with head of bed elevated 30-45 degrees unless contraindicated.
Key Point: An elevated supine position will facilitate passage of the tube toward the left upper quadrant.
Key Point: Reinsertion should be done on an empty stomach, if possible.
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. Cleanse skin around stomal area with NS from stoma outward using circular pattern to reduce infection potential.
Key Point:
4. Generously lubricate 2 inches from the tip of the catheter with water-soluble lubricant to facilitate passage and to prevent trauma.
5. Gently insert catheter 2 to 4 inches. If resistance occurs, remove catheter slightly, re-lubricate, and gently reinsert.
Key Point: Never force the catheter as this may create a false passage.
6. Aspirate gastric contents with 60mL catheter tip syringe to confirm placement
7. Inflate the balloon with 5mls sterile water to hold catheter in place.

Key Point: Gently pull catheter until resistance is met.

8. Plug catheter with catheter plug to prevent leakage.
9. Fold two 4" x 4" gauze pads and place folded edges alongside catheter. Secure with tape. Use pre-cut sponges, if available.
10. Loop and secure remaining catheter length with tape to prevent accidental removal.
11. Keep patient NPO and do not use replacement catheter until further physician orders.

PATIENT/ FAMILY EDUCATION: Teach patient and/or caregiver:

1. What to expect before, during, and after procedure.
2. Type and size of catheter is used.
3. Catheter care.
4. Common catheter concerns:
 - a. Catheter blockage
 - b. Catheter migration
 - c. Balloon breakage

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Document incident and physician notification in the EHR. Complete an event notification including :
 - Stoma condition
 - Treatment rendered related to site complications
 - If temporary catheter was inserted, include catheter size.
2. Update "GI information" in the EHR.
3. Document patient/family education in EHR.

REVISED BY: Roumayne David, BSN, RN

REFERENCES:

- .Nettina, S. M. (2018). *Lippincott manual of nursing practice*. (11th ed.). Amber, PA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- Shah, R., Shah, M., & Aleem, A. (2021, May 2). Gastrostomy Tube Replacement. Retrieve from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK482422/>
- Lippincott Procedures – Enteral tube replacement, percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (Advanced practice). (2020, August 21). Retrieved from: <https://procedures.lww.com/lnp/view.do?pld=5253056&hits=gastrostomy,tube&a=true&ad=false&q=gastrostomy%20tube%20>
- Schraga, E. D., & Kate, V. (2020). Gastrostomy Tube Replacement Technique. Retrieved from: <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/149589-technique>
- Boullata, J.I., Carrera, A.L., Harvey, L., Escuro, A.A., Hudson, L., Mays, A., McGinnis, C., Wessel, J.J., Bajpai, S., Beebe, M.L., Kinn, T.J., Klang, M.G., Lord, L., Martin, K., Pompeii-Wolfe, C., Sullivan, J., Wood, A., Malone, A., Guenter, P. (2017), ASPEN Safe Practices for Enteral Nutrition Therapy. *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, 41(1), 15-103. Retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0148607116673053>

11/90 – Revised	07/09 – Revised	08/16 – Revised
04/97 – Revised	03/12 – Revised	10/18 – Revised
03/00 – Revised	09/15 - Revised	10/21 - Reviewed
07/03 – Revised		