



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: TUBE FEEDINGS FOR HOME USE

POLICY NO. 345

CATEGORY: Provision of Care	EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/89
POLICY CONTACT: Megan Blick, RD	UPDATE/REVISION DATE: 7/22
REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE(S): Nutrition Committee	

PURPOSE:

To provide oral nutrition supplements or enteral products for patients with pending approval or delivery of products, and to reduce incidences of unnecessary admissions, re-admissions, or delayed discharges.

POLICY:

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center shall provide access to nutrition support services to patients who require tube feedings or oral nutrition supplements and have no financial means of obtaining products to prevent or reduce incidences of unnecessary admissions, re-admissions, or delayed discharges.

Patients who do not require financial assistance in the provision of their tube feeding or oral nutrition supplement due to outside funding will be assisted, when needed, in obtaining products and services from outside pharmacies.

PROCEDURE:

A. Patient Assessment

1. Physician Responsibilities

- a. Identify patients who may require home enteral nutrition as part of the discharge planning process and notify Nutrition and Social Services as soon as possible.
- b. Write a durable medical equipment (DME) order for tube feeding.
- c. Enter an order for a Dietitian Consult or contact the dietitian directly at least 24 hours prior to patient's discharge.
- d. Ensure patients are tolerating their complete home tube feed regimen prior to discharge from hospital.
- e. Make referral to Home Health within the first three (3) days of initiation of home nutrition support services on all new tube feeding patients.

REVIEWED: 6/92, 2/96, 12/98, 1/02, 2/05, 8/13, 4/16, 7/19, 7/22

REVISED: 9/89, 6/92, 2/96, 12/98, 1/02, 1/08, 8/13, 4/16, 7/19, 7/22

APPROVED BY: _____

Anish Mahajan, MD
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- f. Enter durable medical equipment (DME) orders in the electronic health record (EHR) for tube feeding supplies prior to patient's discharge, including tube feeding pump if patient is on continuous feeds, formula, and any other necessary equipment.
- g. Refer the patient to the Outpatient Nutrition Clinic for follow-up using the e-consult process.

1. Ancillary Services Responsibilities

- a. Clinical Social Work staff will evaluate the patient's financial resources and support system. Prioritization is given to those patients whose readmission is imminent without the tube feeding.

The dietitian will evaluate all referrals for home tube feeding that are placed at least 24 hours prior to patient's discharge; perform a nutritional assessment, make recommendations on type and volume of formula, type of feeding, and contact the physician as needed.

B. When Tube Feedings are provided for patients by Harbor-UCLA Medical Center:

- 1. Physician is to consult the dietitian 24 hours ahead of discharge if home enteral or oral supplements will be needed from the hospital.
- 2. Nutrition Services will provide oral or enteral product to the patient.
- 3. The physician re-evaluates the patient when clinical need arises.
- 4. The outpatient dietitian in the Outpatient Nutrition Clinic will re-evaluate the patient on an as-needed basis, and assess tube feed and oral supplement regimens at time of visit. The outpatient dietitian will monitor response to treatment and to adjust assessment or recommendations, as needed.

Reviewed and approved by:
Medical Executive Committee 07/2022

Beverley A. Petrie, M.D.
President, Professional Staff Association