

Verifying Proper Placement of NG Tube

Proper placement should be verified prior to using the tube *every time* it is used.

For newly placed tubes or any time tube placement is in question, verify by testing the pH of stomach contents. To do this:

1. Make sure enough time has passed since any feedings or medications have been administered. The stomach should be relatively empty prior to checking the pH.
2. Attach a syringe to the end of the tube (make sure that if the tube has another port, it is clamped).
3. Pull back a small amount of gastric fluid from the stomach into the syringe:
 - If getting gastric contents is difficult:
 - i. Verify that the tube is at the correct measurement.
 - ii. Lay child down on their left side and try again in 15 minutes.
4. Empty the fluid into the medicine cup and dip the pH test paper into the cup.
 - If possible, try to alternate which nostril you use each time you replace the tube.
5. Remove the pH test paper and immediately match the color changes to the color guide.
 - Normal pH is less than 5.
 - A pH greater than 5 may mean the NG tube is not in the right place.
6. If the pH is less than 5, you can proceed to use the tube once it is secured.
7. If the pH is greater than 5, you may not be in the proper position, and you will have to try again. If unsuccessful after following the troubleshooting guide, please contact your child's healthcare provider.

For an already inserted and verified NG tube, *prior to each* feeding and medication administration you must:

1. Check that the tube has not moved by ensuring the correct depth marking is visible.
2. Check that the tube remains properly secured.

Please use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code and view related videos on our YouTube channel.

