

# Gastrostomy Parent Discharge Information

Management for the first six weeks following  
formation of a gastrostomy

**Name:**

Where a gastrostomy tube (g-tube) falls out during the first six weeks following gastrostomy formation there is a risk that the tract between the stomach and abdominal wall can be disrupted when reinserting the g-tube.

With a newly formed gastrostomy the child should have their g-tube replaced as soon as possible as the stoma can start to narrow making it difficult to reinsert the device.

## Within the First Six Weeks Post Operatively

If the g-tube falls out or is dislodged, parents are advised to cover the stoma site with gauze and tape and bring their child, their g-tube and spare g-tube (supplied by your community nurse):

- To Starship Emergency Department for review by the Surgical Registrar, who will replace the tube and confirm its correct placement, i.e., contrast study, before it is used.
- To their local Emergency Department, if the family live outside of Auckland Region. The local medical staff should contact the Paediatric Surgical Registrar for appropriate management advice.
- Following replacement of the button or g-tube, it should not be used until a contrast study has been done to confirm it is correctly positioned in the stomach.

## Mic-Key Button Care for First Three Weeks Post Operatively

The Mic-key button should be secured with tape to prevent dislodgement or rotation of the button within the new stoma. There should be no dressing and the feeding extension tube should only be connected to administer a feed or medication.



Photo: How the Mic-Key button should be secured on discharge and for the first 3 weeks

- This taping should continue for the first three weeks. (Child can be bathed as normal).
- The tape can be changed as necessary.
- At the end of the three weeks the balloon volume should be checked before removing the tape.
- Only water should be used to inflate the balloon. Replace the water if needed.
- The balloon volume should then be checked once a week, replacing the water as needed. After three weeks the button can be gently rotated a little each day with bathing.



### Children on Continuous Feeds via Mic-Key Button/ G-J Tube

- The feeding extension tube should also be secured by tape to the abdomen to prevent it catching and pulling on the button in the newly formed gastrostomy.
- Children on continuous feeds should have their g-tube and feeding extension tube flushed with water at least 3 times a day and between medication administrations to prevent blockage.
- The feeding extension tube should be disconnected and cleaned thoroughly at least once per day

### After the First Six Weeks

- Generally the gastrostomy tract has matured by around six weeks and g-tube changes can be managed in the community.
- If there is ever any concern that the gastrostomy tube has not been placed within the stomach, then it should not be used until correct placement is confirmed.