



Problems and trouble shooting!

Choking or difficulty breathing

Stop feed immediately, place baby on side and clear infant's airway. Check placement of tube with pH strips before commencing feed.

If choking and breathing difficulty continues...

DAIL 111

No aspirates? (after trying steps on page 6)

Tube accidentally fallen out or pulled out by Pēpi?

Contact your Homecare Nurses or midwife. They will guide you on whether sucking feeds will be sufficient or the NG needs to be reinserted.

After hours or Sundays encourage sucking feeds. If your baby is sleepy and taking only short feeds and less wet nappies or a dry nappy attend Starship Emergency Department.

Short Term Nasogastric tube

This is a guide to help prepare you for caring for your Pēpi as they go home with a short term feeding tube



<https://www.littlerockfamily.com/post/123684/feeding-a-preemie-in-the-nicu-5-things-you-may-not-know>

Newborn Homecare

Should you have any questions, concerns or just want some advice the Newborn Homecare team is here to support you!

Newborn Homecare Team 021 492 168

Homecare service hours:
Monday to Saturday
7.30am to 4pm

For after hours support please contact:

Starship Hospital 3074949 ext 24200

or attend Starship Emergency Department!

What is a Nasogastric Tube?

A nasogastric tube or also called a NGT for short is placed into the nose and goes down into the stomach. It then allows milk and medication to be feed to your Pēpi.

How to feed via the syringe

Once you are sure about the tube position-connect the 20ml feeding syringe to the port and add the appropriate amount of milk

 Syringe feeding is run by gravity so the higher it is placed the faster it will run. Normally a full feed should take about 20 minutes. Lower the syringe if the feed is running too fast. If the feed is not going in, take the syringe plunger and gently push down in the syringe slightly (you may feel a little resistance) and then remove the plunger.

 Feeding time is a social time. Hold, talk, and look at your Pēpi . Your Pēpi may also like a pacifier during the feed to encourage the normal sucking reflex.

 Replace any lifting tape straight away to avoid baby pulling tube out. Some baby's require hand mittens when unsupervised.

Cleaning equipment

Wash syringes in hot soapy water, rinse and soak in tablets or steam or boil. Change syringes daily or earlier if it becomes hard to push the plunger.

No aspirate? Time to problem solve!

- Check the measurement matches the prescribed position from the nurse written on the previous page. Does that measurement match the one you can see at the nose?
If it doesn't it is in the wrong place– contact the newborn homecare team, if its after hours see the advice on page 8.
If measurement is correct then gently push 2 mls of air down the tube with the syringe and aspirate again.
- 🍌 Try changing the baby's position (left side then right side) and tray aspirate from each position.
- 🌐 Wait (where possible) 15-30 mins before aspiration again to allow stomach contents to build up.

If there is still nothing do NOT give next feed . See more advice on page 8!



Short term NGT

When a Pēpi is born premature they can be a little slow at developing the ability to have full sucking feeds and may still need the feeding tube for a short period of time until they grow big and strong to fully feed. But by having a NGT placed will allow you to be able to return home while your Pēpi is still learning.

A short term NGT is made form soft plastic so is only designed for a short period of time (2 weeks). So are used for a brief time as you transition at home.



Getting organised for a feed...

Make sure you have what you need before each feed:

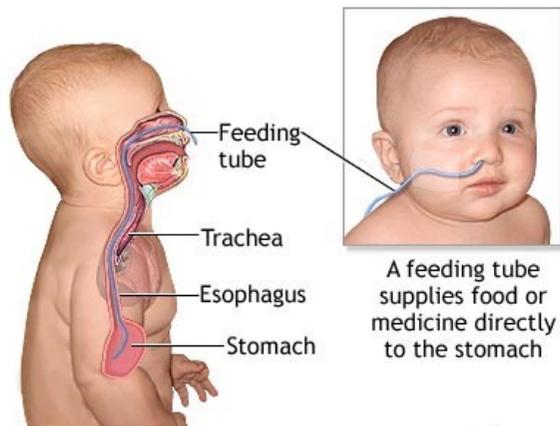
- 🌐 Breast milk or formula that is warmed to room temperature.
- 2.5ml purple syringe to aspirate the stomach contents and check position of NGT
- ★ Feeding syringe (20ml purple syringe)
- PH Strips

ALWAYS make sure you wash your hands so you don't spread any germs to your Pēpi while feeding. And ALWAYS turn on the light at night to ensure you can watch your Pēpi. For any signs of colour change or signs they are unwell and the position of the tube during each feed.



The position of the NGT

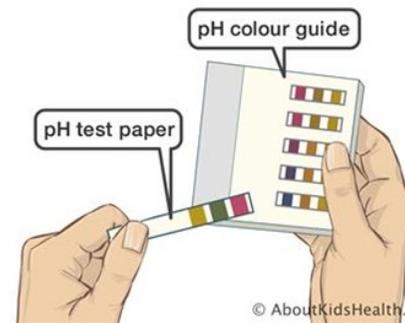
As the oesophagus or food pipe runs next door to the trachea or wind pipe it is essential to **check the position of the tube before you give milk or medications to your baby.**



A feeding tube supplies food or medicine directly to the stomach

ADAM.

Attach the 2.5ml syringe to the port of the feeding tube and gently draw back (also called aspiration) to get some fluid. You just need enough to cover the PH strip!



Wet the PH strip with the fluid and match the colour to the colour guide.

The correct position is when the PH is equal or less to 5. Then it is safe to feed.



Your Baby's NGT position:

_____ cm	Date: _____
_____ cm	Date: _____

