

Enteral tube feeding compliance: Annual Audit Tool for Care Homes

Standard: Enteral tube feeding is performed by a trained person and delivered eliminating the risk of microbial contamination.

Action	- It is recommended that this Audit Tool should be completed annually by a trained and competent staff member. - Additional training must be given when changes to procedures or devices are introduced. - In the event of non-compliance, an 'IPC Action Plan' should be produced and reviewed regularly. - Completed Audit Tools and Action Plans should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC inspections.

Name of person being assessed		Job title	
Name of assessor		Date of assessment	

Question		Evidence	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Management						
1.	Can the staff member identify where to find the Care Home policy for the management of enteral feeding?	Check policy, e.g. Enteral tube feeding Policy for Care Home settings.				
2.	Is the staff member trained in the preparation and administration and management of enteral tube feeding?	Check training records. Observe practice.				
Clinical practice						
3.	Is hand hygiene performed prior to any manipulation of the enteral tube feeding system?	Observe practice.				
4.	Is a disposable apron worn prior to manipulating the enteral feeding system?	Observe practice.				
5.	Are disposable gloves worn prior to manipulating the enteral feeding system?	Observe practice.				
6.	Is a clean non-touch technique used when connecting the giving set to the enteral feeding tube?	Observe practice.				

Question		Evidence	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
7.	Is hand hygiene performed immediately following removal of personal protective equipment (remove gloves first)?	Observe practice.				
Site and tube care						
8.	Is the advice from the hospital consultant/ healthcare professional or manufacturer being followed for cleaning of the site.	Observe practice.				
9.	Is the advice from the hospital consultant/ healthcare professional or manufacturer being followed for whether a dressing is required.	Observe practice.				
10.	Is the advice from the hospital consultant/ healthcare professional or manufacturer being followed for rotation of the tube.	Observe practice.				
11.	Is the staff member aware of the need for microbiological swabs to be taken when there are signs of infection?	Ask a member of staff about practice.				
Administration of feeds						
12.	Freshly drawn water is used to flush enteral feeding tubes for residents who are not immunocompromised.	Observe practice.				
13.	Sterile water is used for residents who are immunocompromised.	Observe practice.				
14.	If sterile water is used, is it labelled with the resident's details, the time and date opened.	Check bottle.				
15.	Once opened, is sterile water discarded after 24 hours?	Check date and time on the bottle is within 24 hours.				
16.	Is the feed within its expiry date?	Check expiry dates.				
17.	Is the feed labelled with the resident's details, time and date opened?	Observe practice.				
18.	Are single pre-packaged feeds discontinued within 24 hours?	Observe practice.				
19.	Are giving sets changed following each feed?	Observe practice.				

Question		Evidence	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Management of equipment						
20.	Are syringes either single use and disposed of, or single patient use ones are cleaned with warm water and general purpose neutral detergent, rinsed and dried after use?	Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe the procedure.				
21.	Are single use items disposed of following use?	Check a selection of equipment, e.g. giving sets, medicine pots or observe practice.				
22.	Are feeding pumps visibly clean and ready for use?	Check pumps.				

References:

CQC (2023) *Enteral feeding and medicines administration*

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (2021) *Single-use medical devices: implications and consequences of reuse*

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Updated 2017) *Healthcare-associated infections: prevention and control in primary and community care Clinical Guideline 139*

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Updated 2017) *Nutrition support for adults: oral nutrition support, enteral tube feeding and parental nutrition Clinical Guideline 32*

Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (2020) *The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedure 10th Edition*

Available free to download, go to www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk