

Nurses International

Clinical Skills

Name of the procedure/Rubric/ Rationale: Gravity Bag Feeding

Step	Procedure	Yes	No	Remarks
1.	Perform hand hygiene.			
1.	Introduce yourself, identify the client, explain your role, purpose, and time frame for the procedure. Explain what you will do. Obtain consent.			
2.	<p><u>Gather supplies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer <input type="checkbox"/> Well-fitting non-sterile gloves, <input type="checkbox"/> Syringe (60 mls) <input type="checkbox"/> I/V pole <input type="checkbox"/> Feeding container <input type="checkbox"/> The ordered formula feeding (e.g.Nutridex, Lactodex) <input type="checkbox"/> A cup of Water <input type="checkbox"/> Marker pen <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity bag set 			
3.	<p><u>Before Proceeding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Perform hand hygiene <input type="checkbox"/> Check the room for transmission-based precautions. <input type="checkbox"/> Use appropriate listening and questioning skills. <input type="checkbox"/> Listen and attend to client cues. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure client’s privacy and dignity. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply principles of asepsis and safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the bed is at the working height <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure the bed is locked. 			
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Adjust the head of the bed to semi fowlers to fowlers (if possible), or as clinically indicated. 			
5.	<p><u>Perform hand hygiene and set up the gravity bag:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attach the gravity drip set to the gravity bag (if it is not already attached) and clamp the tubing. <input type="checkbox"/> Write the date, time of the gravity bag set up, and initials of the nurse who opens it. <p>(Note: Gravity bag usually have attached tubing system)</p>			
6.	<u>Check the placement of the nasogastric tube:</u>			

Nurses International

Clinical Skills

Name of the procedure/Rubric/ Rationale: Gravity Bag Feeding

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Place stethoscope on the client’s stomach <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare 10 cc of air in a toomey syringe <input type="checkbox"/> Push 10 cc of air into the Ng tube <input type="checkbox"/> Listen for gurgle sounds <input type="checkbox"/> Leave the syringe on the NG tube and aspirate the gastric content. <input type="checkbox"/> Look for stomach fluid in the syringe, even a few drops show that the end of the tube is correctly in the stomach 			
7.	Perform hand hygiene and don clean gloves			
8.	Prepare the feeding solution in a feeding container by putting the water/milk (as ordered) with the number of scoops of the feeding formula. Stir it with the help of a spoon until it completely makes a smooth solution.			
9.	<p><u>Administering Feeding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Close the roller clamp on the tubing of the bag. <input type="checkbox"/> Pour the instructed amount of formula or breast milk into the bag. <input type="checkbox"/> Hang up the bag on an IV pole or a wall hook about 2 feet above and to the side of the feeding tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Prime the feeding set, let the air out (open the roller clamp, let the formula flow through the set) <input type="checkbox"/> Close the roller clamp. <input type="checkbox"/> Attach the tubing to the client’s NG tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Open the roller clamp. 			
10.	Set the flow to the desired gravity drip-rate. Use the clamp to control the flow until the desired rate is achieved.			
11.	<p><u>After Completing Feeding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When the feeding is complete, close the clamp. <input type="checkbox"/> If extra water is desired after feedings, pour the prescribed amount into the container to flush the tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Open the clamp and let the water wash the tube. <input type="checkbox"/> Close the clamp and disconnect the feeding set. <input type="checkbox"/> Doff gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Wash it with warm water and refrigerate the bag <input type="checkbox"/> Keep patient upright for a minimum of 30 minutes <input type="checkbox"/> Wash the feeding container, spoon, syringe with soap, and water all allow them to dry for the next feeding. 			

Nurses International

Clinical Skills

Name of the procedure/Rubric/ Rationale: Gravity Bag Feeding

12.	<u>Ensure safety measures when leaving the room:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Ask the client for any discomforts, ensure the call bell is within the client’s reach, lower and lock the bed, and assess to determine the need for side rails before you leave			
13.	Perform hand hygiene.			
14.	Document the procedure as per the agency’s policy.			

Note:

- Closed-system formulas such as Ready-to-Hang (RTH) have a hang-time of 48 hours.
- Flush the tubing with warm water before and after giving medicine.
- Do not give medicine with the formula or breast milk, it may clog the tube if mixed together.
- Use liquid medicines when able or crush tablets finely in warm water.
- Start with a new gravity bag every 24 hours.

References:

Abbott Laboratories. (n.d.). Gravity Tube Feeding Overview. Retrieved on 4th of October, 2021 from

https://www.nutritioncare.org/uploadedFiles/Documents/Guidelines_and_Clinical_Resources/COVID19/Gravity%20Tube%20Feeding%20Overview_Abbott.pdf

Seattle Children’s. (2019, December). Using a Gravity Bag to Feed Your Child Formula or Breast Milk. Retrieved on 4th of October 2021 from

<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/globalassets/documents/for-patients-and-families/pfe/pe1483.pdf>