Checking for Tube Placement

To make sure your feeding tube is in the correct position, it is important to check your tube placement each day. Sometimes your tube can move out of position. Check the placement before giving any formula or medicines. If your tube feeding is continuous, check placement of your tube every _______ hours.

Supplies

- Permanent marker pen
- Measuring tape or ruler
- 60 ml syringe

How to Check Tube Placement

Measure your tube:

1. Use a ruler to measure the length of your feeding tube.
   - **If you have a nasogastric tube (NG),** measure from where the tube comes out of your nose to the end of the tube.
   - **If you have a G-tube or PEG tube,** measure from where the tube comes out of your abdomen to the end of the tube.

2. Use a permanent pen to mark the tube where it comes out from your nose or abdomen.

3. Check to see if the mark is in the same place. If the length is more or less than the last time you checked the tube, it may have moved.
Checking for stomach residuals:

Your doctor or dietitian may tell you to not check your stomach residuals at home. If you are told to check your stomach residuals, follow these steps:

1. Put the tip of a 60 ml syringe into your feeding tube with the plunger in the down position.

2. Gently pull back on the plunger. You should see stomach fluid (residual) go into your syringe. If your stomach is empty or if you have a small diameter tube, nasoduodenal tube or jejunostomy tube residuals will not show up.

3. Gently push any residual back through the tube and into your stomach.

Signs That a Tube has Moved or Dislodged

- **Watch for signs that your tube has moved or come out of position.** Signs may include coughing, problems catching your breath, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or tube feeding formula in your saliva.

- **Do not** use the tube for feedings if you think that the tube may not be inside your stomach.

- **Call your doctor right away if you see no stomach content or the length of your tube has changed.**

- **If you have nausea, bloating, or vomiting hold all feedings and call your doctor right away.**