Checking for Tube Placement

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

Supplies

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

How to Check Tube Placement

- Measure the tube:
  1. Use a ruler to measure the length of the 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 that 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:
  1. Put the tip of a 60cc syringe into the feeding tube with the plunger in the down position.
  2. Gently pull back on the plunger. You should see stomach fluid (residual) go into the syringe. You will not get stomach residuals with a small diameter tube, nasoduodenal tube, jejunostomy tube or if your stomach is empty.
  3. Gently push the residual back through the tube and into your stomach.

Signs That a Tube has Moved or Dislodged

• **Watch for signs that the 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.**