

CLEANING FEEDING TUBES AND EQUIPMENT*

PURPOSE: To outline care and cleaning of feeding tubes and feeding bags in the school/childcare setting.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Feeding tubes should not be washed with any detergent containing Olefin, Lanolin, glycerin or other skin softening additives (e.g., Dove or Palmolive Plus). Feeding tubes should be washed in warm water and a mild antibacterial detergent (e.g., liquid Dawn).

EQUIPMENT:

- Cascade Liquid Gel
- White Vinegar
- Individual Patient Containers for Cleaning
- Feeding Tube Equipment
- Syringe for Flushing
- Clean Towel

PROCEDURE:

I. FEEDING BAGS AND TUBING *(after each feeding)*:

- A. Following each feeding and after being disconnected from the child/student, the feeding bag and tubing will be rinsed with 500 - 1000ml of hot water; feeding syringes with 60ml of hot water.
- B. The distal end of feeding tubes should not physically come into contact with the bottom or sides of the sink.
- C. Allow to air dry between feedings.
- D. Feeding bags will be changed weekly. Venting/feeding syringes will be changed as needed.

II. FEEDING TUBES EXTENSION SET *(weekly)*:

- A. Utilize Personal Protective Equipment (gloves).
- B. Child/student feeding tube extension set will be cleaned weekly in individual patient containers.
- C. Soak each child/student 's feeding tube extension set individually in ½ strength vinegar solution for a minimum of 30 minutes. Aspirate and plunge solution through tube vigorously several times.
- D. Soak each child/student 's feeding tube extension set individually in a solution of 4 tablespoons liquid Cascade in 1 gallon water for a minimum of 30 minutes. Aspirate and plunge solution through tube vigorously several times.
- E. Rinse well with hot running water.
- F. Dry in air on clean towel.

*Adapted from "Enteral Feeding Tubes and Feeding Bags, Care and Cleaning of (CHP-004)" Infection Control Policies, The Children's Hospital Approved July 2007