

## G-Tube Home Care

### Activities:

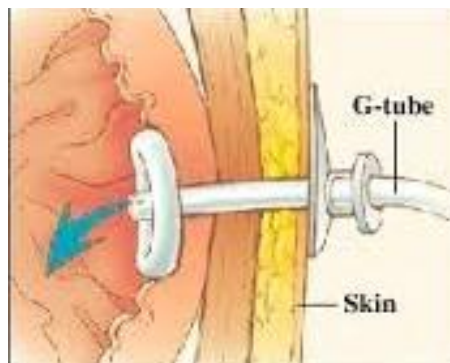
- Young children will be curious about their G Tube and may pull on it or want to play with it. To help stop this, please keep the G -Tube covered:
  - For infants and toddlers, use a “onesie” (one-piece, snap tee-shirt) if you can.
  - For older children or young adults, place stretchy gauze around the stomach to cover the site if needed.

### Bathing:

- Your child may take a sponge bath with a PEG/Mic G-tube, but not a regular bath or shower.
- Your child may take a bath after a Mic-Key button has been placed.

### Incision Site/Care:

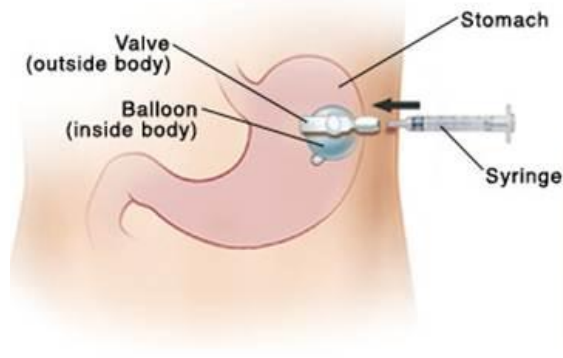
- Wash the skin around the G Tube every day with mild soap and water. Dry the skin completely. If a dressing is used, change it every day or when it becomes wet or dirty.
- Check the skin around and under the G Tube every day to make sure it does not look red or puffy.
- If the G Tube makes the skin look red or puffy, or if you see blood or pus (whitish/yellow fluid) around the hole, call your doctor.



### Check your G Tube Balloon once a week:

- The G Tube balloon holds the tube in place. Check the amount of water in the balloon once a week. Do this on the same day each week.
- Always follow these instructions:
  - Wash your hands!
  - Attach a 5 or 10ml syringe (provided in the kit) to the G Tube balloon port.
  - Hold the G Tube in place and gently pull back on the syringe to take the water out of the balloon.
  - Check to make sure your child's balloon has the correct amount of water.
    - If the amount is correct, push the water back into the balloon. Keep your finger on the end of the syringe and gently disconnect from balloon port. When disconnecting, keep pressure on the syringe to keep water from flowing back into the syringe.

- *If the amount is not correct*, add more water using the syringe until it reaches the correct amount. For example, if you were told there needs to be 5 ml of water and now there is 4 ml, add another 1 ml of water to the balloon using the syringe.



- You can use the water from your kitchen or bathroom sink to fill the balloon. Never fill the balloon with air.
- If every week the G tube balloon has less water than it should have, there may be a slow leak. If you think there is a slow leak, please do one of the following:
  - Change the G Tube **ONLY** if you have been trained to do so.
  - Call your child's GI doctor or nurse and let them know the G Tube needs changed.

## If the G Tube falls out:

- **Do not panic!** Do one of the following:
  - Replace the G Tube **ONLY** if you have been trained and have a new G Tube.
  - If you have not been trained, place the old G Tube back in the stoma (the hole the tube goes in) and tape a gauze dressing over the G Tube to keep it in place. When you are done, call your child's doctor.
    - If the G-tube does not fit in the stoma, cover it with tape and gauze dressing and call your child's doctor immediately! The stoma will begin to close fast (within 30 minutes) so it is important to put in a new tube quickly.

## Call your child's doctor if:

- You have any questions or concerns about your child's G Tube.
- The tube falls out and you cannot replace it.
- The G Tube is clogged.
- The stoma has a bad smell.
- There is pus (whitish/yellow fluid) around the G Tube.
- Your child has a temperature of 101 degrees F or more with any of the above problems.
- Your child throws up more than 3 times in 24 hours.
- There is any redness, soreness, or bleeding around the skin that does not get better after you clean it and change the dressing.