PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

ENTERAL NUTRITION BOLUS FEEDING

1. Verify student orders are current. Note the type of nutrition to be administered (e.g., ready to feed formula), volume, rate, and water flush.
2. Explain procedure using developmentally appropriate teaching strategies. Consider self-management goals and encourage participation as appropriate.
3. Perform hand hygiene. Place the supplies on a clean surface. Open packages and maintain standard precautions.
    a. Formula/feed
    b. Extension tubing
    c. Syringe (60 mL)
    d. Water flush
    e. Gloves
4. Position student comfortably. It is recommended the student be seated or head-of-bed elevation maintained at least 30 to 45 degrees, unless contraindicated, to prevent aspiration. Assess gastrostomy button (herein after referred to as GT).
5. Prime the extension tube, then clamp. Attached extension tube to the GT. The extension tube should have a notch/key that will "lock" into the GT.
6. Administer feed and monitor student tolerance:

    Open syringe/gravity bolus feeding: Remove syringe plunger. Attach empty syringe to extension tube. Unclamp extension tubing and pour formula/feed into syringe. Adjust elevation of syringe to control the flow.

    Push syringe bolus feeding: Draw up formula/feed into syringe. Attach syringe to extension tubing. Unclamp and gently push syringe plunger to administer formula/feed.
7. After administering enteral bolus feeding, clamp extension tubing before removing syringe.
8. Prepare and administer water flush. Clamp extension tubing before removing syringe.
9. Detach extension tube from button by "unlocking" from the GT. Close the plug port on the GT after removing extension tubing to prevent leakage.
10. Clean and properly store feeding tube supplies.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CARE

- Report changes in student's feeding tolerance including nausea, vomiting, retching, or abdominal distension.
- Bolus feedings or intermittent feedings delivered rapidly into the stomach mimic the normal pattern of eating.
- Clean or aseptic technique in the handling and administration of the formula should be used to prevent bacterial contamination.