

PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

GASTROSTOMY BUTTON REPLACEMENT

1. Verify student orders are current. Note the size (Fr) and length (cm) of gastrostomy button (herein after referred to as GT) and amount of water (mL) to inflate GT balloon.
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. New GT kit (GT, syringe, extension tube)
 - b. Water
 - c. Lubricant (water-soluble)
 - d. Gloves
4. Assess GT site. Deflate old balloon completely with a syringe and pull the tube out steadily. In event of trauma at stoma site, assess for ruptured balloon or damaged parts. If pieces visible within stoma, stop and cover the site with gauze. Contact parent/guardian.
5. Position student comfortably. Clean area surrounding stoma.
6. Draw water into syringe. Attach to balloon port of new GT to inflate balloon. If any discrepancies with size, shape, or function of balloon, stop. Contact parent/guardian.
7. Deflate the balloon by withdrawing water. It is recommended to leave syringe attached to the balloon port of new GT.
8. Lubricate the tip of the GT with a water-soluble lubricant.
9. Gently insert GT into stoma. Inflate the balloon with water.
10. Assess position of GT and verify placement.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR CARE

- Inadvertent removal of a newly placed surgical GT less than 12 weeks post-op is considered a medical emergency. The GT will need to be replaced with placement verified by the referring provider or surgeon.
- GT reinsertion by the school nurse is determined by local school system (LSS) policy. A healthcare provider order for replacement will be required.
- Only water should be used for balloon inflation, never saline.
- Report abnormalities in stoma size, color, bleeding, and integrity of skin surrounding stoma. Repeated leakage may indicate need for different size GT.
- Gastrostomy button replacement may be indicated if the device becomes dislodged or occluded. The balloon may have also ruptured, or the GT be traumatically removed.
- Consider holding feeds for 30 minutes before resuming medications and/or feeding schedule.

