

Guidelines for Changing Tube Feeding Supplies

How often should I change my supplies?

- **Pediatric nasogastric (NG) feeding tubes** are meant to last for 30 days. You can rinse them with warm tap water and replace them if they are pulled out. HomeMed will provide 2 tubes with your first delivery, then 1 tube every month as needed.
 - You should always have 1 extra tube available in case you need it. Please call HomeMed when you use your extra tube so we can send you another. You may have extra costs for unscheduled deliveries.
- **Feeding sets and bags** should be changed every 24 hours. If you use the bag for intermittent feeding (feeding on a schedule at different times throughout the day), rinse it with warm water before adding more formula.
 - **Gravity bags** should be rinsed with warm water, placed in a sealed container (like a plastic storage bag or lidded container), and stored in the refrigerator between uses.
 - **Pump bags** should stay loaded in the pump and rinsed with warm water between feedings.
- **Syringes** should be changed twice a week (use 1 syringe for 3-4 days). After each use, clean your syringe by pulling the plunger out of the barrel (the tube-like part of the syringe) and rinsing it with warm water. Let the plunger air dry. Use smaller syringes (12 and 35 millileters (mL)) for flushing the feeding tube with water or checking the tube placement.
 - If you need syringes to give medications, get them from your local pharmacy or buy them online.

- **Extension tubing (35 inches)** used with a 60 mL syringe for gravity feeding should be changed twice a week (use 35 inch extension tubing for 3-4 days). In between uses, rinse the extension tubing by flushing warm water through the tubing with a syringe (when it is not connected to the patient). Store the syringe and tubing in a sealed container in the refrigerator between uses.
- **Extension tubing (6 inch) sets** should be changed once a week.
- **Chimney sets or leg bags** should be changed once a week. Rinse out the venting and draining supplies often with warm water.

What do I do if I still have questions?

- On Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, call HomeMed at **(800) 862-2731**.
- For urgent issues, we have someone available to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. After regular hours, you can the HomeMed number and dial 1 to leave a voicemail message about your supply needs. If you don't dial 1, the call will connect you to the hospital phone operator. From there, you can tell them you're a HomeMed patient and they will connect you to the on-call pharmacist or nurse.

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