

ENTERAL FEEDING PUMP

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Product Information For Customers

PRODUCT INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS

An enteral feeding pump is used to administer a balanced, liquid nutritional formula directly to the digestive tract through a flexible tube. Enteral therapy allows your healthcare team to adjust the amounts of protein, carbohydrates, fat, vitamins and minerals you receive by adjusting the amounts and types of formula you receive.

ADMINISTRATION OF FEEDINGS

Tube feeding can be provided in three ways:

1. Bolus (with a large syringe)
2. Gravity (by using a bag without a pump)
3. By pump (to control the flow rate and total amount of nutrition received).

Using a pump will control the amount of food administered over a prescribed period of time. Sometimes patients fed using either the bolus or gravity methods have a problem receiving too much formula too quickly and have nutrition back up in the digestive tract (reflux) or have a problem with diarrhea (dumping syndrome). An enteral pump is used to help prevent reflux and/or dumping.

Enteral pumps come in a variety of models, but they have common features. The pump will have a clamp to attach to an IV pole. It will have an ON/OFF switch and controls for setting the amount of food (in mls or ccs) to be delivered per hour and for setting the number of hours for which the nutrition will be administered. Most pumps have an internal battery that recharges any time the pump is plugged into an electrical outlet. This allows feeding to continue even during a power failure. It will also be equipped with audible and/or visual alarms that warn of any interruption of electrical power or pump malfunction. For specific details on the operation of your particular pump, please refer to the manufacturer's operating instructions provided.

The nutrition bags or "pump sets" may be the cassette type which are inserted directly into the pump or flexible bags which are hung on the IV pole above the pump. These flexible bags may be pre-filled and sealed with a prescribed amount of liquid nutrition in them, or they may be designed with an opening into which nutrition can be poured. Unless otherwise instructed by your doctor or healthcare team, PUMP SETS SHOULD BE CHANGED EVERY TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS TO PREVENT BACTERIA GROWTH. Every eight hours the bag should be disconnected from the pump and flushed with hot water to clear the bag of nutrition. You should never fill the bag with more nutrition than will be used in an eight-hour period.

The pre-filled flexible bags do NOT need to be flushed since they are sealed to prevent contamination, but they do need to be changed every 24 hours or as instructed.

Cleanliness is especially important for tube feeders. The most effective way to prevent bacterial growth and germ-transfer is for caregivers to wash their hands thoroughly with warm water and antibacterial soap for at least one to two minutes before handling tubing or any part of the enteral pump set or the nutrition. Keep enteral formula in a cool dry area. Most unopened enteral formula can be stored at normal room temperature, but you should refer to the Nutritional Supplement Storage & Handling Guidelines and follow these and any additional instructions from your doctor or other members of your healthcare team.

Your doctor will also have prescribed the number of calories per day or the number mls or ccs of nutrition per hour you are to receive. These amounts are determined based on your body weight and whether there is a need to gain, lose or maintain current weight. NEVER change the amount of nutrition or the rate of feeding without a doctor's order. Please notify our office immediately of any changes, so we can adjust the quantity of product we deliver to meet these new needs.

Always follow your doctor's instructions regarding use of full-strength or diluted nutrition. Shake the can vigorously prior to opening to mix any contents that may have settled or separated during storage. If you do not use all of the formula in an opened can, cover and store the remainder in the refrigerator. If the opened formula is not used within twenty-four hours, it should be discarded unless you have been otherwise instructed by your doctor or a member your healthcare team

The enteral pump itself requires very little care. Wipe the outside of the pump with a clean, damp cloth to remove dust and droplets of formula. Check the "wheels" of the pump through which the tubing is threaded. These will often collect small amounts of formula and may begin to stick or drag. Wipe these moving parts with a clean damp cloth.

If you have a problem with your enteral pump or supplies, please call our office for assistance.

If you experience a change in your health or medical condition, call your doctor.

If you experience physical distress or any type of medical emergency, call 911, the rescue squad or an ambulance.