

NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT STORAGE & HANDLING

PRODUCT INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS



FORMULA

- Check the expiration date on the formula package or can to assure the product is in date
- Formula lids should be cleaned and dried prior to opening

Although most ready to use enteral formulas are commercially sterile, preparation and administration techniques greatly influence potential microbial contamination. Enteral feeding solutions have been reported to support appreciable bacterial growth. It is important to minimize the risk of contamination.

- The formula should be transferred directly, with minimal handling, to the feeding container. The container should be immediately capped and kept closed until feeding is complete. Care must be taken not to touch the inside of the feeding container.
- It is usually not necessary for unopened formula to be refrigerated, however, once opened, the formula must be refrigerated until the time of use. Opened and unused liquid products should be labeled with the time and date that they were opened and refrigerated.
- Label opened formula containers with the date and time of formula preparation. Discard any unused portion after 24 hours or according to manufacturer's instructions.

HANDLING

Prior to handling equipment or formulas you should thoroughly wash your hands with bacteriostatic soap. Special attention must be paid to the hang time of the formula as specified by the formula manufacturer. (Hang time is the time the formula remains in the feeding container on the IV pole.) Manufacturer's instructions generally limit hang time to no more than four hours at room temperature. The feeding containers and administration set should be replaced at least every 24 hours or according to manufacturer's instructions.

STORAGE

Unopened formula containers should be stored in a dry area which is not exposed to temperature extremes. Do not expose to freezing temperatures (below 34 degrees) or excessive heat (above 95 degrees).