

Gravity Bag Tube Feedings

*For more detailed step-by-step instructions please reference your facility policy.

Overview/Indications:

A gravity feeding bag may be used in the event that you do not have access to a feeding pump



Materials Needed for Set-Up:

Gravity feeding bag/tubing
IV pole
Formula
Warm water for flushing tube
60 ml syringe
Towel

Set up, Infusion, & Completion Instructions

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and don appropriate PPE.
2. Gather all equipment (See list above)

In Patient Room:

3. Place patient head of bed at 30-45 degrees (during feeding & for 30 to 60 minutes after feeding)
4. Verify tube feeding placement per facility policy
5. Flush feeding tube with lukewarm water
6. Write date/time on tube gravity bag
7. Close clamp on gravity bag and place desired amount of formula in the bag, then hang gravity bag on IV pole
8. Prime tubing over a sink with formula
9. Insert tip of gravity bag tubing into feeding tube
10. Set the formula flow to the desired gravity drip rate using roller clamp (see chart on the back for rate calculation)
11. After feeding is completed, close roller clamp, disconnect gravity bag from patient and flush feeding tube with lukewarm water
12. It is important to rinse gravity bag and tubing between feedings
13. Once tubing and gravity bag are cleaned, hang up until next feeding (each gravity bag can be used for up to 24 hours, then should be changed)

Finding your Drip Rate:

mL/H	Drips Per Minute	mL/H	Drips Per Minute	mL/H	Drips Per Minute
5	2	55	18	105	35
10	3	60	20	110	37
15	5	65	22	115	38
20	7	70	23	120	40
25	8	75	25	125	42
30	10	80	27	130	43
35	12	85	28	135	45
40	13	90	30	140	47
45	15	95	32	145	48
50	17	100	33	150	50

Use this chart to determine how many drips per minute are equal to a feeding pump rate

1. Find the pump rate under the mL/H column
2. Move across the chart to drips per minute column; this is how many drips per minute you need to equal pump rate

Example:

Your doctor ordered 30mL/H. Find 30 mL/H on chart and move across chart to drips per minute column. Your drip rate is 10 drips per minute.

Performing a Bolus Tube Feeding:

Materials:

Formula 60 ml syringe
Water Measuring cup

Instructions:

1. Follow steps 1-5 from the Set-up, Infusion, & Completion Instructions (on front)
2. Separate the plunger from your 60 ml syringe; then pour prescribed amount of formula into the measuring cup
3. Clamp feeding tube and place syringe (without plunger) into feeding tube
4. Pour formula from measuring cup into syringe. Repeat until prescribed amount of formula has been given
5. If patient feels nauseated or bloated slow down the feeding
6. After feeding is completed flush with lukewarm water and close roller clamp

Tips:

- Remove formula from refrigeration at least 30 minutes prior to tube feeding to allow formula to come to room temperature
- Formula does not need to be refrigerated after opening and can remain in room for up to 24 hours
- Dispose of any unused formula and gravity bag after 24 hours
- **Place patient head of bed at 30-45 degrees during feeding and for at least 30 to 60 minutes after feeding**

References:

Gravity Feedings for Emergency Situations. (2019). Epic Medical Solutions, Aveanna Healthcare, LLC.
Bolus (Syringe) Tube Feeding Instructions. (2015, August). Epic Health Services, Inc.
Gravity Tube Feeding Overview. (2020). Abbott Nutrition.



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