

NICU Discharge with Tube Feeds

Eligibility Criteria:

- ✓ ≥ 37 wks PMA **AND** PO attempt > 2 weeks
- ✓ RA or 1/8 LPM 100% nasal cannula
- ✓ Parent/caregiver motivated to prioritize home on list of goals
- ✓ Evaluated differential & addressed modifiable aspects of "slow feeding"?

Consider:

- GERD guideline
- VFSS or FEES
- Supplemental Oxygen trial
- Neuroimaging
- ENT evaluation

Nasogastric Tube (NGT) Candidate:

- ✓ $\geq 30\%$ PO
- ✓ Anticipate gavage needs ≥ 2 wks & ≤ 4 mo
- ✓ * parental preference
- ✓ May still require G tube if NG > 4 mo

Gastrostomy (GT) Candidate:

- ✓ $< 30\%$ PO
- ✓ Anticipate gavage needs ≥ 4 mo
- ✓ *parental preference

Type of NGT

- Bridle securement of NGT is recommended outside the hospital because there is up to 73% reduction in NG dislodgement. Risks: 1. Internal anatomy may prevent placement 2. Discomfort, congestion, or skin irritation may require bridle removal
- An alternative is a taped NGT, but need to acknowledge reason why not bridling & accept higher risk of accidental dislodgement
- Can do either type at both Meriter & AFCH

Consultations

- Peds GI (via video visit if at Meriter)

Documentation

- "NG (nasogastric) tube fed newborn" on Problem List
 - Enter .NGTPROBLIST in overview
- Enter .NGTAVS into patient instructions
- Enter "home-going" feeding plan & .NGTDISCHARGESUMMARY in Discharge Summary

Consultations

- Peds Surgery
- Peds GI

Documentation

- Gastrostomy on Problem List
- Enter "home-going" feeding plan in discharge summary
- Peds Surgery to enter patient instructions

Education & Monitoring

- Bedside RN to review w/ parents, using "teach-back" method & HFFY
- Family completes independent care session
- If bridled NGT, monitor PO intake & for nostril irritation for 24 hours after placement

Discharge Planning

- Speech Therapy appointment 1-2 wks after discharge
- If discharged from Meriter, GRAD Clinic appointment 1-2 wks after discharge
- Peds GI appointment at 4 weeks
- Peds Surgery appointment if GT
- Case Management for other home supplies & prior auths:
 - script for 60 ml ENFit syringes
 - Feeding Pump (typically running over 30 min.)