

CHS15 Insert and secure nasogastric tubes

OVERVIEW

This standard covers the insertion of nasogastric tubes following agreed protocols and procedures as and when directed. All of these activities must be undertaken using an aseptic technique. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. The current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to inserting and securing nasogastric tubes
2. Your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
3. The duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
4. The importance of applying standard precautions to inserting and securing nasogastric tubes and the potential consequences of poor practice
5. The importance of working within your own sphere of competence when and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
6. The conditions and constraints which might denote who undertakes this procedure and why
7. What valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
8. The anatomy of the upper gastro-intestinal tract in relation to inserting nasogastric tubes
9. The physiology of the stomach and small intestine in relation to potential contents of gastric aspirate
10. The following regarding the stomach/intestinal fluid:
 1. the normal appearance and content of stomach/intestinal fluid
 2. potential abnormal appearance and content of stomach/intestinal fluid depending on the individual's presenting medical condition
11. Potential sources of contamination when inserting nasogastric tubes and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them
12. The potential consequences of contamination of equipment and materials used for the insertion of nasogastric tubes

13. How aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection
14. Why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the insertion of the nasogastric tube
15. The concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures
16. The adverse reactions which may occur during and following procedures and how to identify and deal with these
17. The importance of offering effective verbal and non-verbal support and reassurance to patients when you insert nasogastric tubes
18. The effective methods of providing verbal and non-verbal support and reassurance to patients
19. The types of nasogastric tubes that can be used and why you should select that most appropriate for the individual
20. The topical anaesthetic agents
21. The importance of maintaining the correct level of cleanliness for the insertion of nasogastric tubes
22. The importance of following procedures for the insertion of nasogastric tubes exactly as specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
23. The importance of packing up used equipment and materials and covering receptacles containing nasogastric aspirate prior to leaving the immediate care area
24. How and where to dispose of:
 1. used equipment and materials
 2. nasogastric aspirate
25. The importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff
26. The following regarding records:
 1. the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
 2. the specific records required for reporting on the insertion of nasogastric tubes

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
2. check the individual's identity and confirm the planned activity
3. give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
4. gain valid consent to insert the nasogastric tube
5. select and confirm all equipment and materials for inserting the nasogastric tube is:
 1. appropriate to the procedure
 2. fit for purpose
6. ensure the individual is positioned in a way that will:
 1. ensure their safety and comfort
 2. facilitate insertion of the nasogastric tube
7. insert the nasogastric tube in compliance with the correct protocols and procedures:

- 1.at an appropriate time according to the individual's plan of care
- 2.using appropriate techniques
- 3.using equipment in line with manufacturer's instructions
- 4.in a manner which optimises the patient's comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma
- 8.observe the individual throughout the activity, recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
- 9.ensure the nasogastric tube is correctly positioned in the stomach
- 10.ensure the drainage bags are securely attached in a way that prevent discomfort and promotes dignity of the individual
- 11.ensure the individual is made comfortable following insertion of the nasogastric tube and dispose of waste according to agreed procedures
- 12.observe nasogastric aspirate for any change in appearance and promptly inform the appropriate member of the care team
- 13.measure and record the volume of aspirate and correctly using the required documentation
- 14.seek assistance promptly from an appropriate person should it be required at any stage
- 15.dispose of waste appropriately
- 16.record clearly, accurately, and correctly any relevant information in the necessary records

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health. This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004): Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs