

Gastrostomy Care

While in Respite / Childcare



Every Child's care regime will be different. Your first port of call is to ask the parents/guardians what their usual regime for caring for the child is.

Detailed gastrostomy care information is available on your smartphone

- Download RCH Family Healthcare Support app available for Android or Apple
- Under the section 'Foundation' is a section 'Gastrostomy tube'
- Direct training for carers (Kinder, childcare, respite, support workers) can be provided by the RCH Complex Care Hub

Additional information

- In addition to cleaning, turn the tube all the way around both clockwise and anticlockwise daily
 - **DO NOT turn if the child has a GJ tube**
- When drying, try not to rub the area, instead pat dry or use a cotton tip, if required
 - Do not attempt to clean or dry granulation tissue. Clean and dry only the surrounding area
- Use an absorbent dressing if advised by the parents.
 - **These should be changed promptly when wet.**
- If it is a balloon device, do NOT routinely check the balloon. If the device seems loose, the balloon volume can be checked by a trained professional/parent/guardian if available. Check with the parents the specific fit and balloon volume, as it will be different for every child.
- A barrier cream/film and an absorbent dressing should be applied for leakage and site irritation.
 - Ask the parents what they would normally use and commence without delay

What to do if the tube falls out

A tube needs to be placed in the stoma as soon as possible (60 minutes or less) to prevent it from closing

- Keep the gastrostomy tube, even if broken
- Contact the parents to decide who will replace the device
 - Parent or another trained professional can attend the facility to reinsert,
 - Alternatively, the child needs to be sent to RCH/local hospital
- If attending RCH:
 - During PEG clinic hours.
 - Attempt to make a same day appointment with the PEG clinic by calling 93456180
 - If unable to contact the above or no appointments are available, please attend the Emergency Department
- While awaiting device replacement, cover the stoma with an absorbent cloth to absorb and minimise leakage

In most cases, an individually written care plan is NOT required, and this document should suffice. If an individual care plan is required, generally the parent should fill in the plan document you have supplied and can have this signed off by their pediatrician, GP, gastroenterologist, or PEG service.