

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'

Additional information

- In addition to cleaning, turn the tube all the way around 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
 - Use an absorbent dressing if advised by the parents.
These should be changed promptly when wet.
- Do NOT routinely check the balloon. If the device seems loose the balloon volume can be checked by a trained professional if available. Check with the parents the specific 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.

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 a 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 clinic hours (M-F 9-12pm) Make a same day appointment with the PEG clinic by calling Day medical Unit on (03)9345 5950
 - During business hours (M-F 12-5pm) Call RCH switchboard and ask for the Gastroenterology fellow on call
 - If unable to contact the above or at all other times, attend the Emergency Department
- While awaiting device replacement, cover the stoma with a dressing to absorb and minimise leakage

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