

## Procedure: Refeeding

Occasionally an infant may be ordered a re-feeding regime. If the stoma is very proximal there may not be enough small bowel to provide for adequate nutrient absorption and growth trajectory may be adversely affected. The basis of re-feeding is to theoretically maximise nutrient, electrolyte and water absorption through the bowel by the aspiration of the intestinal contents from the stoma bag and re-feeding via a nasogastric tube through the mucous fistula (distal stoma). Refeeding is always medically/surgically initiated and a medical order must exist before commencement.

**EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:** follow the procedure for preparation of a regular bag change plus:

A size 8 feeding tube.  
2 pieces of Tegaderm.  
30 ml syringe.

- Perform Hand Hygiene (HH)
- Clean IV trolley/work surface with detergent and water or detergent/alcohol wipe and prepare waste option e.g. bag or designated space.
- Perform HH
- Identify and collect all equipment for procedure. See equipment list.
- Perform HH
- Open procedure tray/pack without contaminating the aseptic field or sterile items.
- Perform HH
- Prepare patient – use gloves where appropriate – e.g. remove dressings
- Remove gloves if worn, perform HH and reapply gloves
  
- Perform procedure ensuring all key parts are protected
- Peel open sterile equipment and drop onto aseptic field
- Apply the wafer around the stoma as per procedure for bag change.
- Cut a small hole in the clear bag to feed the NGT through, ensuring it will be close to the stoma.
- Insert the feeding tube through this small hole and 5 cms into the mucous fistula. (Surgeon or their delegate unless documented in the medical notes that nursing staff can perform the procedure)
- Attach the bag to the wafer as per usual.
- "Sandwich" 2 tegaderms together to secure the feeding tube to the outside of the bag and prevent output seeping through the hole.
- Empty the stoma bag as per the usual regime and reserve the ordered re-feeding amount.
- Using the syringe, gently push contents slowly but steadily into the feeding tube. Refeeding may be delivered by a syringe pump. Medical staff to order rate in refeeding volume.
- Waste is disposed into the designated bag
- Remove gloves and perform HH
- Clean trolley, dispose of waste and perform HH

Document procedure on EMR as relevant, including fluid balance.

