

NG TUBE INSERTION & CARE

Preprocedure

- Verify orders
- Gather supplies
- Perform hand hygiene
- Identify patient with 2 patient identifiers (or per policy)
- Explain procedure to patient
- Raise bed to a comfortable working height

Nasogastric Tube (NGT) Insertion

- Supplies needed
 - NG tube/salem sump – usually 14-16fr
 - 60 mL catheter tip syringe
 - Lubricant jelly
 - Cup of water with straw
 - Towel
 - Tape
 - pH strips
- Assess patient's need for NG tube & nares for patency
- Measure length of tubing required by measuring from nose to earlobe to xiphoid process
- Cut a piece of tape approximately 3 inches long.
 - Cut a slit in the tape down the middle length-wise, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way up (*Like a pair of pants*)
- Provide patient with a cup of water with a straw
- Dip the tip of the NG tube in lubricant jelly, gently insert NG tube in most patent nare
 - Insert back and down toward ear (*not up!*)
- When NGT passes oropharynx, encourage patient to sip & swallow water
- Once you reach your measurement, secure NGT to patient's nose
- Aspirate gastric contents with syringe and verify with pH strips
 - Do NOT use tube until confirmed by provider AND with radiograph



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Nasogastric Tube (NGT) Care

- Verify measurement from shift to shift and against original insertion measurement
 - Use x-ray for confirmation
 - *Request x-ray if concern for dislodging of NGT*
- Flush with 30-60 mL of tap water before and after use, and at least every 4 hours to maintain patency (count as intake)
 - *Use room temperature water*
- Gastric residual volumes (GRV)
 - EBP shows that routine checking of GRV is no longer recommended.
 - When it should be checked:
 - Signs of reflux
 - Signs of fullness or distention
 - If residuals exceed 400 mL (or per policy)
 - Notify provider
- Perform nasal and oral care once per shift
- Inspect tube for signs of skin/pressure breakdown



Postprocedure

- Discard sharps in the sharps container
- Discard all used supplies in the appropriate waste container
- Remove and dispose of gloves
- Perform hand hygiene
- Return bed to low & locked position
- Ensure patient is comfortable