

Always discuss with Senior if unsure

Always check local hospital policy for pH threshold and whether CXR is always required

pH ASPIRATE

pH \geq 5.5

Or unable to aspirate

pH < 5.5

ERECT CXR

ALL CRITERIA NOT MET

ALL CRITERIA MET

CORRECT NG TUBE PLACEMENT NOT CONFIRMED

DO NOT use NG tube

Remove NG tube and replace as required.

Discuss with Senior if unsure

CAN use NG tube to feed

Nursing staff to monitor patient and alert Doctor if any concerns

pH ASPIRATE

pH Threshold:

- Some hospitals use pH < 5.5 as threshold for confirming NG in stomach
- However some hospitals use lower pH level
- Always consult local policies for agreed pH threshold

pH Limitations:

- Gastric pH is normally pH 1.5-3.5
- Frequency of feeds or Medications (PPIs / H₂ antagonists) can alter gastric pH
 - Some hospital require Aspirate and CXR for placement confirmation

ERECT CXR CRITERIA

Patient Details:

- Confirm correct patient details
- Confirm date and time of CXR:
 - CXR should be recent as only confirms NG tube placement at the time it was taken. The NG tube could have moved since

Adequacy:

- X-ray should include Upper Oesophagus down to below Diaphragm to Stomach
- Must be able to clearly see NG tube along its course including its Tip

Midline:

- NG Tube should remain in midline down to level of Diaphragm

Carina:

- NG Tube should bisect the carina (T4 level)

Diaphragm:

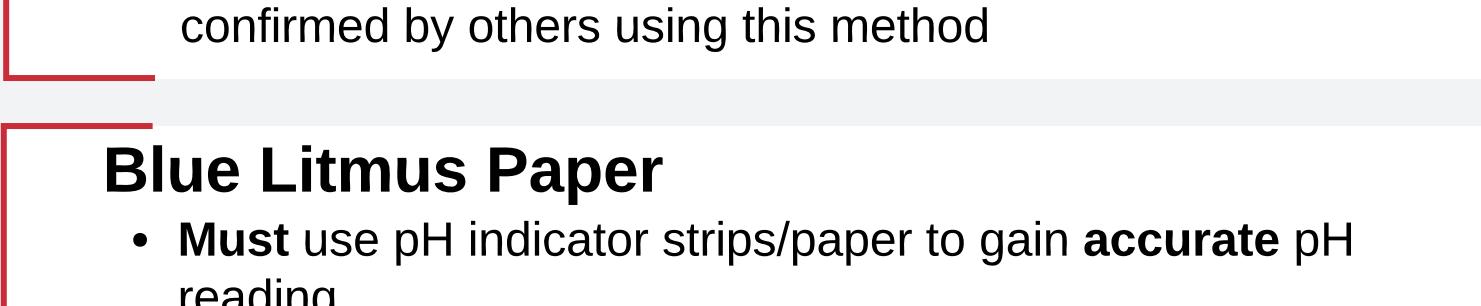
- NG Tube should be clearly visible below diaphragm

Tip:

- NG Tube tip should be 10cm past the Gastro Oesophageal Junction (GOJ)

ALL CRITERIA MUST BE MET TO CONFIRM ACCURATE NG TUBE PLACEMENT

CORRECT NG TUBE PLACEMENT CXR



INAPPROPRIATE TESTS

The "WHOOSH" Test

- This test involves listening over the epigastrium for air movement "Whoosh" while injecting air into NG tube
- This is NOT an advised or safe method to confirm NG placement
- We advise you DO NOT use or trust NG placement confirmed by others using this method

Blue Litmus Paper

- Must use pH indicator strips/paper to gain accurate pH reading
- Blue Litmus Paper will turn red if aspirate is acidic, however pH may be above 5.5 but still below 7 - thus false positive