Conversion:   
  
You are going home with a feeding tube in place If you normally take any medications by mouth you will  
  
need to take them through your feeding tube You can make this easier by calling your pharmacist t  
o see  
whether any of your medications are available in liquid form If they are ask that your prescr  
iptions be filled  
with liquid medications   
  
You were shown how to care for your type of feeding tube in the hospital If you did not receive an instruct  
ion  
sheet on caring for your tube ask for one This sheet provides general guidelines and steps to fol  
low when  
taking medication through a feeding tube   
Before you Begin  
Remember to   
Use liquid medications whenever possible   
Tell all your health care providers that you take medications through your tube   
Don™t mix medications with feeding formula unless your doctor says it™s okay   
Flush your tube before between and after giving medications to prevent the tube from getting  
 clogged   
Gather your supplies  
Here s what you will need   
Measuring cup that is marked with ml or cc these are the same thing   
Measuring spoon or syringe marked with ml or cc  
50 ml cc or larger syringe  
Bowl of tap water 2 cups or more   
Taking Your Medication  
Check the placement of your feeding tube the way you were shown in the hospital   
Prepare each medication the way you were shown in the hospital   
Take your medications in the following order   
Liquid medications first   
Medications that need to be dissolved second   
Thick medications last   
Measure the prescribed amount of liquid medication or crush pills and dissolve powder in 15 ml a  
bout  
1 tablespoon or more of warm water   
Remove the plunger from the 50 ml syringe Pour 30 ml of warm water into the syringe and flush your  
tube   
Pour the medication into the syringe Do not use the syringe plunger to push the medication into the  
tube Let the medication flow in slowly   
Be sure to flush your tube with 5 ml about 1 teaspoon or more of warm water between all medic  
ations   
Take each medication by itself Never mix medications together in the syringe   
Flush the tube with 30 ml of warm water after all medications have been given   
Wait before restarting your tube feeding Some medications don™t work when mixed with the f  
eeding  
formula Ask your doctor how long you should wait to start feeding after taking medications   
Keep your tube clamped in between feedings   
Follow Up  
Make a follow up appointment as directed by our staff   
 When to Call Your Doctor  
Call your doctor right away if you have any of the   
following   
Coughing  
Trouble breathing during feeding flushing or givi  
ng medication  
Tube that can™t be unclogged  
Tube that falls out or difficulty telling if the tu  
be is in your stomach  
Diarrhea that lasts more than 3 loose stools  
Constipation that lasts more than 48 hours  
Nausea or vomiting  
Bloody or coffee colored drainage through the tube  
Red warm or tender skin around the tube  
Sudden increase or decrease in the amount of draina  
ge through the tube  
Sudden weight loss or gain more than 2 pounds in 2  
4 hours   
Bloated or tight stomach  
Fever above 101 5°F 38 5°C   
   
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