

## Gastrostomy—Problems and Actions

### Additional Training Information for Designated Staff

#### PROBLEMS THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Observations	Possible Causes	Action
<b>Color changes/breathing difficulty</b>	May be due to aspiration of feeding into lungs.	<b>STOP FEEDING IMMEDIATELY.</b> Contact school nurse. Monitor vital signs. Call 911 if pupil's condition indicates. Institute emergency plan.

#### PROBLEMS THAT ARE NOT EMERGENCIES

Observations	Possible Causes	Action
<b>Nausea and/or cramping</b>	1. Rate of feeding too fast 2. Feeding may be too cold	1. Decrease rate of flow into stomach. 2. Stop feeding until formula warms to room temperature. <b>DO NOT heat feeding in microwave.</b> If problem continues, notify school nurse.
<b>Vomiting</b> (dry heaves may occur)	1. Rate of feeding too fast or feeding too cold 2. Gastrointestinal virus	1. If all of above actions have been taken, stop feeding and call school nurse. 2. Contact parent if virus is possible cause. Acutely ill pupil should not be in school.
<b>Diarrhea or vomiting</b>	1. Formula intolerance or formula without sufficient texture 2. Gastrointestinal virus	1. Inform school nurse. Nurse will discuss problem with parent & refer if needed. 2. Contact parent if virus is possible cause. Acutely ill pupil should not be in school.
<b>Blocked gastrostomy device</b>	1. Inadequate flushing after administering medication 2. Instilling very thick fluid	Always flush with room temperature water after feeding or medication. If blockage remains, contact school nurse and parent/caregiver.
<b>Blocked gastrostomy tubing</b>	1. Inadequate flushing after administering medication 2. Instilling very thick fluid	1. Squeeze or roll gastrostomy tubing with fingers moving slowly down towards pupil's stomach. 2. Instill room temperature water using a catheter-tipped syringe held high to facilitate movement of fluid. 3. If blockage remains, contact school nurse and parent/caregiver.
<b>Bleeding, drainage, redness, irritation at peristomal area</b>	1. Excessive leakage of gastric fluid 2. Lack of adequate daily cleaning of stoma site	1. Refer to pupil-specific cleaning instructions. Stoma site should be cleaned daily and whenever there is leakage of food, gastric fluid or medication. Dry stoma well. 2. Contact school nurse regarding possible need to communicate with parent.
<b>Leaking of stomach contents</b>	1. Tube pulled away from interior abdominal wall, possibly due to enlarged stoma (button or tube does not fit properly) 2. Balloon not inflated sufficiently	1. Clean skin. 2. Contact school nurse and/or parent. Changes in pupil's weight may necessitate adjustment of tube and fixation device or pupil may need larger tube or button.