

HOW DO I CHECK THE WATER IN A BALLOON GASTROSTOMY TUBE?

The water in the balloon should be checked weekly, unless otherwise advised, to ensure there is enough water in the balloon to hold the tube securely in place.

You must always follow the instructions given by the manufacturer and the advice of your healthcare professional, dietitian and Nutricia Homeward Nurse.

If you are unsure, contact your managing healthcare professional or your NutriciaHomeward Nurse for advice.

Wash hands before and after handling the tube.

You will need:

- 2 x syringes, type as recommended by your healthcare professional.
- Water, amount and type (e.g. cooled, boiled) recommended by your healthcare professional.



Pre-fill a new syringe with the recommended amount of water*



Check the cm markings on the tube at the skin surface are the same as last time

NOTE:

If tube position has changed, do not use and contact your healthcare professional or Nutricia Homeward Nurse to confirm placement immediately.



Move the external fixation device to allow access to the skin around the stoma site



Use fresh water and mild soap solution to clean the skin around the stoma site, then dry thoroughly



Make sure to clean the tube where it will be pushed into your stomach



Advance the tube 2-3cm into the stomach and rotate 360°



Hold the tube or tape loosely to the skin during the procedure, so it remains in the stomach

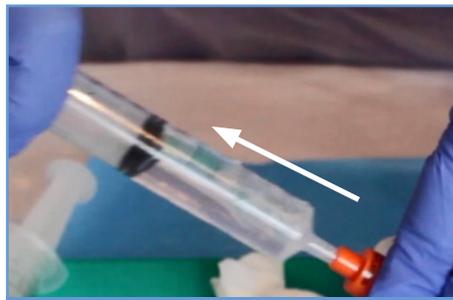


Attach an empty syringe* onto the balloon inflation port of the tube, making sure this is pushed in far enough to open the 1-way valve

*As recommended by your healthcare professional.



Gently draw back the plunger and withdraw fluid until no more water comes out of the internal balloon



Now detach the syringe from the balloon inflation device



Check the volume of water withdrawn and compare with the recommended amount advised for inflation*

If the amount of water withdrawn IS THE SAME as the recommended amount:



Connect the prepared syringe, re-inflate the balloon with new syringe and the correct volume of fresh water

If the amount of water withdrawn IS LESS THAN the manufacturers recommendation, connect the prepared syringe, re-inflate the balloon with pre-filled syringe with correct volume of recommended water.



Gently pull the tube back, until slight resistance is felt, then confirm the cm graduation markings remain the same as before



Ensure the skin and fixation device are thoroughly dried



Replace and close the external fixation device so it lies approximately 2-5mm from the skin surface

If the cm graduation marking has changed, if there is any discomfort, or you are unable to advance or rotate the tube, **DO NOT** use the tube and contact your healthcare professional or Nutricia Homeward Nurse immediately.

Before discarding the syringe check the colour and amount of 'old' water. If the volume is less than the correct amount, or any particles are present, contact your healthcare professional or Nutricia Homeward Nurse for advice.

Repeat at least once a week, or as recommended by your healthcare professional or Nutricia Homeward Nurse.

If you are unable to advance and rotate contact your healthcare professional immediately.

Clean and dry skin around the stoma site daily.

*As recommended by your healthcare professional.

This information is intended for patients, or carers, who are being enterally fed.