

Enterprise Care Management Community – Quick Reference

Created by ECM Project Team, GN, 6/2020

Gastrostomy Button: a Nurses' Guide

This Quick Reference Guide will cover **flushing, stabilization, daily care, medication administration, and feeding administration** for a patient with gastrostomy button in the community. Nurses with appropriate competencies may insert and remove balloon type G-buttons or place a Foley catheter in an open tract to keep open.



Flushing: Use tap water:

Type of device	Less than 1 year of age or 10 kilograms (kg)	10 kg - 35 kg	Over 35 kg
G - buttons	3 – 5 milliliters (mL) before and after feedings/medications and every 6 hours during continuous feedings; Consult provider for flush volumes in between medications.	10 mL before and after feedings/ medications and every 6 hours during continuous feedings; 2 mL in between medications	10 mL before and after feedings/ medications; and every 6 hours during continuous feedings 2 mL in between medications

Stabilization:**Primary G-buttons:**

- Limited manipulation for the 1st two weeks
- Sutures are usually removed in 1 week when the G-button has developed a tract

Greater than 8 weeks old:

- The button should rotate easily and there should be approximately 2-3mm space between the skin & bottom of the external bolster

Daily Care:

Type of Tube	Cleaning	Rotations	Comments
Gastrostomy Button: (tract established \geq 8 weeks old)	Mild soap and water	Full turn daily	Check the balloon volume once a week & when the G-button is loose
Primary Gastrostomy Button: (tract established < 8 weeks old)	Only clean when necessary	Do Not Turn	Leave extension set on for 2 weeks; should have a transparent dressing securing it in place. Don't check balloon for 8 weeks

Medication:

- Do not give buccal, sublingual, time release or extended release medications through the G-tube/button
- Use liquid medications when possible. If tablets must be used, first crush them to fine powder and dissolve in water
- Do NOT put medications into the feeding bag unless ordered
- Give medications separately to avoid a possible drug interaction
- Flush tubing after each medication per flushing guidelines

Feeding:

- Feeding extensions sets are reusable for 2 weeks or until they are leaking/altered integrity
- Position upright at least during and for 30-60 minutes following feeds

