



Enteral Feeding – Tube Care and Management

This Enteral Feeding – Tube Care and Management course introduces you to the key principles of nutritional support and the use of feeding tubes in patient care.

You will explore why patients or clients may need extra help to meet their nutritional needs, and consider situations where placing a tube may not be suitable. The course looks at different methods of providing nutritional support, including tube feeding, and explains how each method – or a combination – may be used in practice. You will learn about the care required to keep patients safe, comfortable, and well supported, while also understanding how feeding tubes can be used to give medicines.

We will also touch on the ethical dilemmas that can arise when making decisions about enteral feeding. By the end of this training, you will feel more confident discussing, supporting, and caring for patients who require this level of support.

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Learning Outcomes

- Explore why patients / clients require nutritional support / tubes
- Reasons why it may not be appropriate to place a tube
- Discuss different methods for providing that nutritional support
- Explore the use of each method and combination methods
- Discuss the care required to maintain the safety and comfort of the patient / client
- Explore the use of the different tubes for medicine administration
- Discuss potential ethical dilemmas associated with feeding tubes

Course Content

Module 1: Understanding Nutrition and the Digestive Tract

- Gain a clear overview of the digestive system, how food and fluids are processed, and what happens when swallowing or absorption becomes difficult.

Module 2: Reasons for Enteral Feeding

- Explore why patients may require tube feeding, including swallowing difficulties, malnutrition risks, and inability to digest food.
- Consider when tube placement may not be appropriate.

Course Content

Module 3: Routes, Tubes, and Feeding Methods

- Learn about different types of feeding tubes, their placement, and how nutrition and medicines can be delivered safely.
- Compare methods such as bolus and pump feeding.

Module 4: Tube Care and Maintenance

- Develop practical skills for checking tube placement, flushing, preventing blockages, and caring for insertion sites.
- Understand daily routines that protect comfort and prevent infection.

Module 5: Medication Administration

- Understand safe practice for giving medicines via tubes, including legal considerations, preparation, and recording.
- Learn when to stop feeds or seek further checks.

Module 6: Complications and Risk Management

- Identify common complications such as infection, leakage, or dislodgement, and learn how to respond quickly and effectively to keep patients safe.

Module 7: Ethical and Professional Considerations

- Reflect on the ethical dilemmas of enteral feeding, patient consent, and human rights.
- Learn how to balance medical guidance with dignity and choice.