

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What are common problems related to enteral therapy?

A: Below you will find a brief list of some common problems associated with tube feeding.

- ♥ Constipation
- ♥ Diarrhea
- ♥ Stomach Upset
- ♥ Dehydration
- ♥ Fluid Overload
- ♥ Aspiration

If you are experiencing any of these issues, be sure to talk to your physician.

### Q: How do I store my formula?

A: Unopened formula containers should be stored in a dry area which is not exposed to temperature extremes, DO NOT expose to freezing temperatures or excessive heat.

Ready-to-feed opened formula can be stored up to 24-hours in the refrigerator.

### Q: Can I give myself medication through my tube?

A: Yes, please check with your physician to get specific instructions.

### Q: How do I order formula and supplies?

A: The Upstate HomeCare Enteral Team will reach out to you monthly to review supplies on-hand. Formula and supplies are delivered to your home by our delivery staff or they are shipped via UPS if the address is out of our immediate delivery area. In the event you are running low, please call our staff 2 days prior to needing more supplies.

## Helpful Resources

- ♥ [www.infinityfeedingpump.com](http://www.infinityfeedingpump.com)
- ♥ [www.mytubefeeding.com](http://www.mytubefeeding.com)
- ♥ [www.oley.org](http://www.oley.org)

To Order Formula and/or  
Supplies Call Our Enteral  
Department at  
**888.648.2211**  
Ext. 6058

# Your Reference Guide to Home Tube Feeding

High standard of comprehensive Enteral Therapy  
to all patients, pediatric to adult.





## Enteral Therapy

To meet your nutritional needs, your doctor has prescribed home enteral nutrition - commonly known as home tube feeding. Enteral is another word for stomach and intestines. Enteral nutrition means that a liquid, nutrient-rich formula flows gently through a specialized tube into your stomach or intestine.

## Important Information You Need to Know

Your tube feeding formula is \_\_\_\_\_

Your method of feeding is \_\_\_\_\_

A member of our enteral team will reach out to you monthly to review supplies and set up delivery for the following month.

Upstate HomeCare prides itself in customer service and welcomes your call during normal office hours; Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm. Please call our Enteral Department at 888-648-2211 Ext. 6058 for any questions or concerns.

## Before You Get Started

- Clean work area
- Gather supplies
- Wash hands
- Shake formulas & check expiration date

## How to feed using a pump

1. Turn pump on (press and hold ON/OFF button)
2. Allow pump to go through power up sequence
3. Confirm rate and dose
4. Pour formula into bag and hang bag on IV pole
5. Open (un-clamp or un-cap) your feeding tube
6. Insert the tip on the end of the tubing into the patient's feeding tube (make sure it is secure)
7. Press Run

### Key Features:

Pump will run nearly 24-hours once fully charged. It will beep and the pump will read "**Low Battery**" when there is 1-hour of charge remaining. The pump will then shut off automatically.

*Be sure to see the word "RUN" with a circle moving around it on the screen to confirm that the pump is running.*

**For pump technical support 24/7 call 800.970.2337**

## How to feed using a gravity bag

1. Remove gravity bag from outer packaging. Close the roller clamp (roll down)
2. Pour formula into the bag and hang it on the IV pole
3. Remove plastic cover from tip of the feeding set
4. Squeeze drip chamber to fill halfway with formula
5. Open the roller clamp (roll up) to fill tubing with formula, then close roller clamp (roll down)
6. Open (un-clamp or un-cap) your feeding tube
7. Insert the tip on the end of the tubing into the patient's feeding tube (make sure it is secure)
  - **Opening roller clamp makes the formula run faster**
  - **Closing roller clamp slows it down**
8. Open roller clamp (roll up) and start feeding
9. It is best to sit upright in a chair, propped up in bed or on the couch in a half sitting position
10. At the end of the feeding; close (reclamp or recap) your feeding tube

## How to feed using a bolus/syringe

1. Remove plunger from the syringe
2. Open (un-clamp or un-cap) your feeding tube
3. Attach the syringe directly to your feeding tube; pour formula as directed into the syringe
4. Disconnect the syringe from the feeding tube
5. At the end of the feeding; close (reclamp or recap) your feeding tube