



Do you want to learn to tube feed your baby?

What is a nasogastric tube?

Your baby has a nasogastric tube, often called an NG tube. This is a narrow tube that is passed through the nose and down into the stomach which allows milk/medicines to be delivered into the stomach.

This type of tube can also be passed through your baby's mouth and into the stomach. This is called an orogastric tube.

Why does my baby require a nasogastric tube?

There are many reasons your baby may require a nasogastric tube most premature or sick babies will require support while they develop the skills required for safe oral feeding.

Nasogastric tube feeding may be necessary to assist your baby in meeting their nutritional and/or hydration needs.

Nasogastric tubes can also be used for the delivery of medicines. Your baby's doctor or nurse will discuss and explain the reasons your baby needs a nasogastric tube

Learning to tube feed

Whilst your baby is on the Neonatal unit we offer tube feed training so that you can be involved in the care of your baby and learn to feed them through the Ng tube.

We will not expect you to learn to insert, change or replace a tube.

The training takes approximately 45 minutes so you can learn to tube feed in a relaxed and safe manner.

After you have done the initial training you will be supported by the nurse caring for your baby. We observe you a minimum of three times over three days until you are safe.

Once signed off as safe, you can tube feed your baby while you are present with them.

Information for Patients

Interested?

Please tell the nurse looking after your baby and they will arrange an appointment for two people (this could be both parents, a parent plus a grandparent or friend) with Laura Wheeler (FiCare Nurse) or Louise Hirons (Nutrition Nurse Specialist).

Alternatively you can contact them directly:

Laura - Laura.Wheeler@uhb.nhs.uk

Times are Monday - Thursday 10am - 8pm

Louise - 07772 018 838

Times are Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm

Slots are usually booked 45 minutes before your baby is due to feed. Once trained, if your baby is ready for discharge but still requires some tube feeds, you may be able to take your baby home with an NG tube with support from our Neonatal Community Outreach Team.

Department address and contact information:

Neonatal Unit
Princess of Wales Women's Unit
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
Bordesley Green East
Birmingham
B9 5SS

Special Care Baby Unit
Fothergill Block
Good Hope Hospital
Rectory Road
Sutton Coldfield
B75 7RR

0121 424 3508/3520

0121 424 9661/7677

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.