

Additional Notes

Important Contacts

Special Needs Units

Americhoice 215-832-4603

Health Partners 215-991-4378

Keystone 65 Complete 215-241-2361

Keystone Mercy 215-937-8881

Centers for Medicare/Medicaid Services
866-334-9994

Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care
215-546-0300, x3685
www.pchc.org

My
Physician: _____

Telephone: _____

PHILADELPHIA COORDINATED
HEALTH CARE

FEEDING TUBE GUIDE



*Has your doctor said you might need a
feeding tube?*

If so, this brochure may help.



A Core Program of



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Introduction

There are times when eating food by mouth may not be safe for our bodies or we cannot eat enough to be healthy. At that time, a doctor might tell you that you need a feeding tube.

Please take this with you when you visit the doctor and write down the information.

What is a feeding tube?

A feeding tube is a tube that goes either down your nose or directly into your stomach and brings you liquid food, water, and sometimes medicine.

Why would you need a feeding tube?

You might need a feeding tube if you have trouble swallowing food or liquids, or you can't eat enough to stay healthy and you are losing weight.

How long will I need the feeding tube?

Some people only need to use a feeding tube for a few weeks, but some people may need it for a long time.

What are the different types of feeding tubes?

There are two main kinds of feeding tubes.

- One goes down your nose and into your stomach. If you get this kind, you will only have it for a little while.
- The other kinds can go right into your stomach if you need to use them for a longer time.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE YOU GET YOUR FEEDING TUBE.

1. Why do I need a feeding tube?

2. Will my feeding tube go in my nose or my stomach?

3. How long will I have my feeding tube?

4. Can I still eat food by mouth after I get my feeding tube?

5. Can you put my feeding tube in at your office or will I have to go somewhere else?

6. Will you put in my feeding tube or will another doctor do it?

7. Will I be awake with something to relax me, or will I be asleep when you put the feeding tube in?

8. Will I go home after my feeding tube is put in, or will I have to stay somewhere else for a while?

9. After I get my feeding tube put in, when will I start to get liquid feeding through the tube?

10. After I get my feeding tube in, how soon can I start going back to doing the things I like to do (like work, school, or having fun)?

11. Who will tell me or my family or staff how to take care of my feeding tube?

12. How often will my feeding tube need to be changed?

13. What do I do if my feeding tube comes out?

14. What can I do to help my feeding tube work well?

15. After I get my feeding tube in how often should I come see you?

16. What should I do if I feel sick?

17. How do I get what I need for my feeding tube like a pump, tubing, syringes, and liquid food? (*you might not need all these things*)
