

## ***BEFORE YOU BEGIN***

### **Checklist for Starting Tube Feeding in the Home**

Please use this checklist when tube feeding is being started for the first time or the type of feeding tube has been changed. It is best to complete this prior to discharge from the hospital.

- Person/Caregiver has received training on tube feeding, positioning, and giving medication via the feeding tube prior to discharge from the hospital.
- If necessary, the day program has been contacted if tube feeding is required or medications must be administered while the person attends. Ensure that day program caregivers have received training on tube feeding, positioning, and giving medication via the feeding tube prior to the person returning to the day program.
- The pharmacy has been notified that medications will be administered through a feeding tube. This may result in changes to the times medications are given or the formulation (e.g., liquid, crushed tablets).
- Enough equipment and formula is available when the person returns home.
- Procedures are in place for the person/caregiver when addressing such issues as: clogged/displaced feeding tube, pump malfunction, need for supplies, signs/symptoms of complications, etc.
- Documentation is available that contains information on contacts, type of feeding tube inserted, nutritional requirements, method of feeding and schedule, flush amounts, fluid requirements, and any special instructions (see sample "Personal Feeding Tube Information" document).
- Information should be available at the home for the person/caregiver which may include the following:
  - Handouts/manuals given by the hospital
  - Tube feeding plan prescribed by the physician/dietitian
  - Specific details of feeding tube care, stoma care, skin care
  - A detailed oral hygiene routine
  - Positioning guidelines
  - Details of the person's feeding tube and emergency contacts (Personal Feeding Tube Information document)
  - Daily Feeding Tube Flow Sheet
  - Charts/Flow Sheets (e.g., weight chart, bowel chart)