

## Glossary

**Aspiration pneumonia:** inflammation/infection of the lungs due to inhalation into the lungs of food, fluids, or other foreign materials

**Bolus feeding:** feeding method in which formula is injected into the feeding tube with a syringe at regularly scheduled intervals

**Caregivers:** term used to describe those supporting an individual including direct support professionals or direct care staff and family members

**Constipation:** bowel movements that do not happen very often or hard stools that are painful or difficult to pass

**Continuous feeding:** tube feeding where the formula is given via a pump at a continuous rate for a specified time period

**Decompression:** removing air or fluid from the stomach

**Dehydration:** condition in which the body does not have enough water

**Diarrhea:** frequent loose, watery bowel movements

**Dysphagia:** Difficulty swallowing

**Electrolyte:** a nutrient (such as sodium, potassium, or chloride) that helps regulate cell and organ function

**Esophagus:** muscular tube leading from the mouth to the stomach

**Feeding tube:** a tube into the stomach or small intestine through which formula is given

**Formula:** a liquid nutritional product that has the same nutrients as regular food

**Gastrostomy (G) tube:** a feeding tube that goes into the stomach through a stoma, which may be placed surgically or endoscopically

**Gravity drip feeding:** feeding method in which formula enters a feeding tube from a container placed above the patient, providing nutrition without mechanical intervention

**Hypergranulation tissue:** extra tissue that grows around the stoma

**Jejunostomy (J) tube:** a feeding tube that goes into the small intestine

**Jejunum:** the middle part of the small intestine located between the duodenum and ileum

**Nasogastric (NG) tube:** a feeding tube that goes from the nose to the stomach

**NPO:** Nothing by mouth [*Latin – non per os*]

**Nutrients:** parts of food that nourish the body (protein, carbohydrate, fat, vitamins, minerals, and water)

**PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy):** one of the methods of placement for a gastrostomy tube

**PEJ (percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy):** one of the methods of placement for a jejunostomy tube

**Pump feeding:** see continuous feeding

**Regurgitation:** the backflow of contents from the gastrointestinal tract

**Residual:** formula from the last feeding that is still in the stomach at the next feeding

**Small intestine:** the part of the digestive tract between the stomach and large intestine that digests and absorbs nutrients

**Stoma:** Opening in the abdominal wall through which a gastrostomy tube or jejunostomy tube enters the body

**Stomach:** Organ between the esophagus and small intestine that holds food during the early part of digestion

**Syringe:** A hollow, plastic tube with a plunger used to draw fluid out of or inject fluid into a feeding tube