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