



	<b>West Limerick Independent Living CLG Policies</b>				
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ENTERAL FEEDING POLICY</b>				
Page:	1 of 2	Policy. No.: WLILP14	Date September 17	Issue No.	0

Category: Operational Policies

Subject: Enteral Feeding Policy (Guideline for the Care and Management of Enteral Feeding in Adults)

Responsible for Review of this Policy: West Limerick Independent Living CLG Board

### Scope

All West Limerick Independent Living Staff may require to enteral feeding. DO NOT PUT ANYTHING DOWN THE TUBE THAT HAS NOT BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE DIETITIAN (APART FROM MEDICATIONS WITH APPROVAL FROM PHARMACY).

Personal Assistant's (PA's) do not give any medication via Syringe. Please refer to the Employee Handbook Policy for the Administration of Medications page 68.

PA's can only administer enteral bolus feed when they have been deemed competent by Dietician and copy of competency in PA's file.

### Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide direction on good practice in the provision of Enteral Feeding to West Limerick Independent Living Service Users.

### Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all staff who manage enteral feeding to follow these guidelines. It is responsibility of Service Area Coordinators to ensure Staff are familiar with the guideline's and to monitor compliance.

### Aim

The aim of the enteral feed policy is to ensure that service user's nutritional and fluid requirements are met, to prevent and treat disease-related malnutrition and complications induced by poor nutritional status. The policy aims to ensure that the safe practice of administration of enteral feed is maintained.

### The following items are required:

- Prescribed feed (at room temperature)
- 50 ml syringe
- Alcohol wipes
- Tap water (or sterile water for immunocompromised patients)
- Gloves and apron
- Clean jug



	<b>West Limerick Independent Living CLG Policies</b>				
<b>Title:</b>	<b>ENTERAL FEEDING POLICY</b>				
Page:	2 of 2	Policy. No.: WLILP14	Date September 17	Issue No.	0

**Procedure:**

- Wash hands according to the 'Hand Hygiene policy', put on gloves and plastic apron.
- Flush feeding tube with 30-50 ml of sterile water using the 50 ml syringe.
- Check expiry date of feed and shake container before opening.
- Uncap end of tube
- Remove plunger from syringe and connect to end of tube
- Fill the syringe with feed using gravity to allow the feed to flow. Open clip on PEG and allow feed to flow through.
- Prior to syringe emptying, top up with feed until all has been given. Hold the syringe so that gravity is used to allow liquid into the stomach. If necessary, lower the syringe to a lower level to decrease rate of delivery. Do not allow the syringe to be completely empty before adding more feed.
- Flush tube with at least 30 ml or as regime of water.
- Close clip on PEG tube, syringe and recap PEG/NG tube end.
- Clean syringe if it is to be reused, otherwise discard in clinical waste.
- Store unused feed in a refrigerator, labelled with client's name, date and time of opening, and use with 24 hours.
- Record amount of feed given and flushes.
- Ensure the patient is comfortable observe for signs of feed intolerance (burping, Hiccups vomiting)
- Maintain patient's upper body positioned at a minimum angle of 30 degrees for 1 hour. Ensure they do not lay flat.