



What to Expect: (NG) Nasogastric Tube Feedings at Home

Being sent home with a feeding tube is likely not what you had planned for your child. We understand that this time can feel overwhelming. Here are a few tips and reminders to help you successfully care for your child at home:

It is not uncommon for children to try out several formulas before finding one that works well.

- Your child might be having issues tolerating the formula if you see: excessive spit-up/vomiting, constipation, diarrhea, bloody stools or noticeable discomfort during feedings.
- Please do not hesitate to contact an IU Health Home Care dietitian for assistance in finding the proper formula or regimen for your child. You can reach us 24/7/365 at 317.962.4600.

It is important you or your doctor let us know if changes are made to your child's feeding plan.

Your insurance will require a new, signed prescription to change the amount or type of formula your child is taking.

Examples of when a new prescription should be sent to us include:

- You have less formula on hand than normal or will run out of formula before the monthly refill is due.
- Your doctor recommends that you increase the number of feedings per day or the amount of formula.
- Your doctor recommends you change the brand or type of formula.
- Your doctor changes the type or size of feeding tube.

Insurance companies will only allow a month's worth of product to be sent to your home at a time.

This means that only a set number of products will be allowed each month unless your child's medical condition warrants additional items. Please let us know if you feel the quantity of an item you received does not meet your child's needs. We may need documentation from your physician and can help obtain this.

If your child is admitted to the hospital, please let us know.

Your child's needs may change and we want to make sure you have everything you need when you get home.

Please see other side for information regarding refills and supplies.



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The nasogastric tubes you use at home should be used for one month at a time.

- Your home nasogastric (NG) tubes are made of a more durable, longer-lasting material than the ones your child might have used in the hospital. Tubes are changed more frequently in the hospital than at home.
- Please be sure to remove the NG tube weekly, clean it with warm water and place it in the opposite nostril to prevent skin breakdown on your child's face.
- It is important to always have a backup tube on hand in case there is an issue with the current NG tube. Please let us know if you do not have an extra tube at home.

There are a variety of supplies available, but we send home the most commonly used items to get you started.

If the items you are using irritate your child's skin or are causing issues in some other way, please let us know so we can find an item that works better.

IU Health Home Care will contact you approximately one week prior to your estimated next refill.

We must have verbal or written permission each month to send your shipment so that we can confirm your needs and shipping information.

- You can place your order via phone call or online at iuhealth.org/enteralnutrition.
- We also have three ways to remind you when the refill is due: phone, text or email.
- Please let your customer service representative know your preference when you place your first refill.

For more information, visit iuhealth.org/enteralnutrition or call 317.962.4600.



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