STANDARDIZED PROCEDURE

FEEDING TUBE MANAGEMENT

These procedures are intended to describe procedures performed by Nurse Practitioners and/or Certified Nurse Midwives (depending on the clinical privileges granted to the individual practitioner) at UC San Diego Health.

Definition- Feeding tube management includes exchange of preexisting feeding tubes, clearing a clogged feeding tube.

Setting- Adult and adolescent patients both inpatient and outpatient

Supervision- Direct supervision will not be necessary once competency is determined, as provided for in the protocol. The Nurse Practitioner will notify the physician immediately upon being involved in any emergency or resuscitative events or under the following circumstances:

1. Patient decompensation or intolerance to the procedure
2. Bleeding that is not resolved
3. Outcome of the procedure other than expected

Indications- Existing feeding tubes may be changed as long as they have been in place greater than 3 weeks from initial placement. If under 3 weeks duration the tube should be cleared with a guide wire under fluoroscopy.

Precautions- Coagulopathy with an INR of greater than 2.0. Platelet count less than 50,000.

Materials- Gather necessary supplies.

Procedures- Fluoroscopy or spot x-ray imaging will be used to advance a wire through the existing feeding tube or stoma. Once the wire is advanced to the appropriate position (gastric or small bowel). Existing feeding tube will be removed over the wire. A replacement tube will be advanced over the wire. Contrast injection will then be done to document final position. Long term gastric tubes with an established track may be changed without imaging guidance in some settings.

If clearing a clogged feeding tube a guide wire will be passed through the feeding tube. Fluoroscopy or spot x-ray imaging may be used for this procedure.

Documentation- Documentation of procedure will be placed into patient chart. Orders will be written for post procedure management of procedure site and feeding tube if indicated.

VII. RESPONSIBILITY- Please contact the Advanced Practice Council if you need help. The administrative assistant for the Chief Nursing Officer can direct you. Call; 619-543-3438.

VIII. HISTORY OF PROCEDURE
Revised by the Committee of Interdisciplinary Practices: 2/26/2014, 9/28/2016
Reviewed by the Medical Staff Credentials Committee: 3/5/2014, 10/6/2016
Approved by the Medical Staff Executive Committee: 3/20/2014, 10/7/2016