



Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

## **MIC-KEY® Tube Care for the First 8 Weeks**

A MIC-KEY® tube has been inserted into your child's stomach to provide the nutrition he/she is unable to get by mouth.

The stitches around the site will need to be removed 5 days after the tube is placed. These can be removed in the Surgery Clinic, by your child's pediatrician, or you may remove them. If you want to remove them at home you will be shown how to do this before you leave the hospital.

Once the stitches have been removed, the MIC-KEY® needs to be turned completely in the tract 4 times each day. This is similar to turning an earring.

The MIC-KEY® is held in place by a balloon full of water. **DO NOT** check the water in this balloon for the first 8 weeks after the tube is placed.

Your child will need to be seen in the Surgery Clinic 2-4 weeks after surgery for a check-up. He/she will need to be seen in the Surgery Clinic again in 8 weeks to have the MIC-KEY® changed by the surgery team.

### **Skin Care**

To keep the skin clean:

1. Wash the skin around the tube with soap and water.
2. Rinse the area well with warm water.
3. Dry the area well, especially the skin around the tube.

It is important to take care of the skin around your child's tube. Skin care needs to be done at least twice each day. The area around the tube needs to stay clean all the time. Keep the area as dry as possible. Some drainage may occur at the site. If you are concerned about the drainage call your child's health care provider. Your child may take a bath in the bath tube two days after surgery. Talk to your child's doctor about swimming.

### **Care of the Feeding Tube when Giving Feedings or Medications:**

1. Flush the tube with 3-5 mL of warm tap water before and after each feeding or medication.

2. Be sure the tube is flushed with warm tap water and is clear of formula before giving any medication through the tube.
3. Only formula, breast milk, and/or medication should be given through the tube (no pureed foods or baby foods).

**Supplies:**

The supplies needed for feedings should be obtained from your child's home medical supply company.

**Call your child's doctor or health care provider at 612-813-8000 if:**

1. There is any redness, swelling, excessive drainage or skin breakdown around your child's tube or site.
2. You are unable to give feedings or medications through your child's tube/button.
3. You notice thick, pink, raised skin around the site.
4. Your child has pain, diarrhea, vomiting, or unexplained fever.
5. You have any questions or concerns about your child's tube.

**\*VERY IMPORTANT\***

**If your child's tube comes out, take your child to the nearest Emergency Room!**

1. **Place a new tube (given to you at discharge) into the opening on the belly. DO NOT USE FORCE WHEN REPLACING THE TUBE.**
2. **DO NOT inflate the balloon (if present).**
3. **Tape the tube securely to the skin before leaving for the emergency room.**
4. **DO NOT use the new tube for feedings/medications until your child has been evaluated in the emergency room.**