

# Giving Medication SKILL

## Watch and Review

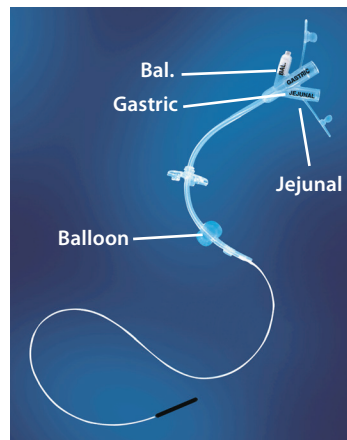
- ▶ Watch the video, then just follow each of the steps.



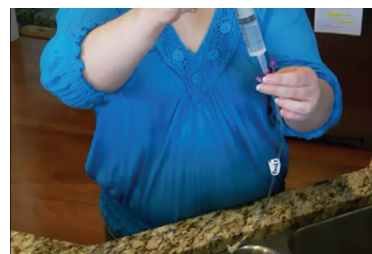
## Overview

- ▶ You should be given a list of medications with directions from your doctor. The doctor and a pharmacist should check to see if any current medications interact with the tube feedings.
- ▶ Ask your doctor to prescribe medications in a liquid form.
- ▶ Ask if pills can be crushed or capsules opened. A pill crusher or a small plastic container with a twist tip that crushes pills into very small powder or pieces may be needed. Some medications are not meant to be crushed, especially those marked “SR” or “sustained release.” Do not take any medications without a doctor’s consent.

- ▶ Typically, crushed medication is not given through the jejunostomy port of a GJ-tube; it may be given through the gastric port of the tube. Ask your health care provider for instructions.



- ▶ All medications should be mixed with water so that they are easier to insert into the feeding tube.
- ▶ Do not mix medications with the tube feeding, breast milk, or with each other.
- ▶ If more than one medication is needed, always **flush the feeding tube with water between each medication.**
- ▶ **Never add medications to the feeding bag.**
- ▶ When using a pump feeding, you will need to shut off the feeding to give medication. Some feedings will interfere with a medication’s effect.
- ▶ Flush after each medication with the recommended amount of water and restart the feeding.



Flushing after medication

# Giving Medication SKILL

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## SKILL: GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

1. Medication
  2. Feeding syringe
  3. Bottle of water for flushing tubing after medications
  4. Feeding tube extension/feed set (if needed)
  5. Clamp (if needed)
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## SKILL: GIVING THE MEDICATION

- ▶ Wash your hands with soap and water.
- ▶ Make sure you or your child or infant is in an upright position, just as for feeding.
- ▶ For pump feedings, stop the feeding and open the G-tube button or feeding tube port.
- ▶ Attach the feeding extension set to the G-button if you are using one:



- Hold the G-button firmly with two fingers, and hold the extension set with your other hand.
- Line up the black lines on the button and tubing.
- Hold the tubing up while attaching to the button to prevent backup of stomach contents into the tubing.
- Gently but firmly push the tubing into the button, and turn clockwise in the direction of the arrow to lock it into place.



- ▶ Draw up the water in the syringe. Attach the syringe to the feeding extension or feeding port of a long gastrostomy or jejunostomy tube.
- ▶ Unclamp the tubing and flush with the water in the syringe.
- ▶ Reclamp the tubing and remove the syringe.

- ▶ Pour the required dose of the medication into a medicine cup.
- ▶ Draw the accurate dose of medication into a syringe. Use a second medicine cup to mix the medication with water. (Mix medications with 30 mL for an adult and 5 to 10 mL for a child, unless fluids are restricted).
- ▶ Draw the medication mixed with water back up into the syringe.
- ▶ Most feeding tubes or extension sets have a feeding port and a medication port. Close the feeding port and open the medication port for delivering medications. Make sure you close the medication port when using the feeding port.
- ▶ Attach the syringe to the feeding extension set or feeding tube, unclamp the tube, and deliver the medication. Clamp the tube and remove the syringe.
- ▶ Using the same steps, flush with water after each medication. If you have a G-button, remove the feeding extension set and close the safety cap at the end of the button after medication delivery.
- ▶ Pull the syringe apart, and wash it and the extension set with warm, soapy water; rinse well and let them air dry.
- ▶ Record the date and time the medication was given.



Medicine cups



Drawing up medication



Feeding and medication ports