

ITU Enteral Tube Feeding Bolus Protocol

Purpose: Only to be used in the event of insufficient enteral feeding pumps during the COVID-19 outbreak. To be used for patients who require enteral tube feeding to meet their full nutritional requirements, until dietetic assessment. Please ensure the patient is referred to the dietitian. Always use an enteral feeding pump if available.

Place 10Fr enteral feeding tube and confirm position as per Trust Guidelines

Bolus to be given at the following times: 0900, 1300, 1700, 2100, 0100, 0500.

(Boluses should be prescribed on drug chart)

See **Table 1** below for bolus volumes to be given at each time

Flush NGT with 50ml water pre and post each bolus

Measure gastric aspirate prior to each bolus (i.e. every 4 hours)

NO

Is aspirate \geq 250ml

YES

Replace gastric aspirate and give bolus as per Table 1

1st aspirate > 250ml? Replace up to 250ml of aspirate, discard any excess and give full bolus
2nd aspirate > 250ml? Replace up to 250ml of aspirate, consider starting prokinetic (e.g. metoclopramide). Give full bolus
3rd aspirate > 250ml? Replace up to 250ml, do not give bolus. Continue to monitor aspirates 4hrly, once < 250ml restart boluses. Consider adding additional prokinetic (e.g. erythromycin). **Contact the dietitian for advice**

NO

Subsequent aspirate > 250ml

YES

Table 1

Weight *	Bolus Volume	Per 24hrs
< 50kg	110ml bolus Fresubin 2kcal	660ml, 1320kcal, 66g protein, 17mmol Na, 27mmol K
51-60kg	125ml bolus Fresubin 2kcal	750mls, 1500kcal, 75g protein, 20mmol Na, 31mmol K
61-70kg	140ml bolus Fresubin 2kcal	840mls, 1680kcal, 84g protein, 22mmol Na, 34mmol K
71-80kg	150ml bolus Fresubin 2kcal	900mls, 1800kcal, 90g protein, 23mmol Na, 37mmol K
> 80kg	160ml bolus Fresubin 2kcal	960mls, 1920kcal, 96g protein, 25mmol Na, 39mmol K

* Use **actual weight** if BMI < 30kg/m²

* Use **ideal body weight (IBW)** if BMI \geq 30kg/m² (To calculate IBW = 25 x height (m) x height (m))

• **If at risk of refeeding give 50% of the bolus volume for the first 24 hours.**

Blood Glucose Control:

Check Blood glucose regularly as per ICU Guidance.

If CBG persistently more than 10mmol/L give 4 units of Novorapid immediately prior to the next bolus of feed.

Check CBG before giving each bolus and aim for CBG of 5-10mmol/L. Do not give insulin if CBG < 5mmol/L.

Refer to the Diabetes team for specialist input