



Enteral Syringe Handling

Overview

- Enteral syringes are used to provide enteral formula, medications and water into enteral feeding tubes.
- The use of these syringes must follow a “clean technique”, which includes proper hand washing prior to use and proper cleaning of the syringes before and after each use.
- Minimally, four syringes per month should be used. This correlates to one syringe used, PROPERLY CLEANED, reused for up to seven days, and then discarded. It is not recommended to reuse a properly cleaned syringe for more than one week.

Hand Washing Technique

- Wet hands with warm, running water.
- Apply liquid, antibacterial soap or use clean bar soap. Lather well.
- Rub hands vigorously together for at least 15-20 seconds.
- Scrub all surfaces of your hands, including the back of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
- Rinse hands well.
- Dry hands with a clean paper/disposable towel.
- Use a paper/disposable towel to turn off the faucet.

Syringe Cleaning Technique

- DO NOT use hot water. Hot water makes the rubber piece in the plunger sticky.
- DO NOT put syringes in the dishwasher.
- After use, pull the plunger out of the syringe.
- Wash both the plunger and syringe with warm, soapy water in a clean environment and rinse thoroughly.
- Place both the syringe and plunger on clean paper towels to air dry.

Please contact your local Option Care office if you have any questions regarding enteral syringe handling.

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