

## **Gastrostomy Tube (G-tube) or Jejunostomy (J-tube) Removal**

### **Why does the tube need to be removed?**

- Your child's doctor has decided that the tube is no longer needed.
- A pressure dressing will be put over the tube site once the tube is removed.

### **What is a pressure dressing?**

- This is a tight and clean bandage that covers the tube site.
- It soaks up drainage from the site and helps the tract from the stomach or intestines close up.
- Most tracts close in a few days.
- Other tracts may take a few weeks to close.
- If the tract does not close on its own, your child may need surgery.
- Your child's doctor will talk to you about surgery if the tract does not close on its own.



### **When should the pressure dressing be changed?**

- The pressure dressing needs to be changed:
  - At least once a day.
  - Any time it is soaked with drainage.
- The best time to change the dressing is before a meal when the stomach is empty.

### **What supplies are needed to change the dressing?**

- 3 x 3 gauze (2 pieces)
- Silk tape or foam tape

### **How do I change the dressing?**

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water.
- Take off the old dressing.
- Clean the site with soap and warm water.
  - It is okay for your child to take a sponge bath or shower and clean the site at the same time.
  - Air dry or gently pat the site with a towel to dry.

- Tear (4) six-inch long pieces of tape and have them ready to use. Six inches is about as long as your hand, from your wrist to your longest fingertip.
- Fold one piece of gauze in half. Fold it in half again.
  - Put this folded gauze over the site.
- Fold a second piece of gauze in half.
  - Put this folded gauze over the first piece of gauze.
- Use the strips of tape to hold the gauze tightly to the site.
  - Make sure all the edges of the dressing are covered.

## **Special Information**

- Help control drainage from the site after the first pressure dressing is put on.
  - Your child should not have food or drinks for at least 3 hours after the tube is taken out. Then your child can have smaller meals or amounts of formula but offer them more often for a few days.
  - Quiet activity is best for one day after the tube is taken out.
- Decrease skin irritation around the site.
  - Use a diaper rash cream, like Desitin®, to protect the skin.
  - Be sure to clean the skin with warm water and soap and dry it before putting on the diaper rash cream.

## **Follow Up for Tube Removal**

- Please make an appointment in Surgery Clinic for 2-3 weeks from the time the tube was removed.
  - Surgery Clinic Appointment Line: 414-607-5280.
  - Central Scheduling: 800-607-5280.
- If the site does not close, surgery may be needed.
  - Your child's surgeon will discuss the procedure with you if it is needed.
- If your child's tube closes before this appointment, you can cancel the appointment.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child:

- Has leaking at the site after one week.
- Has very red, painful skin or the skin starts to peel away from the tube site.
- Has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**