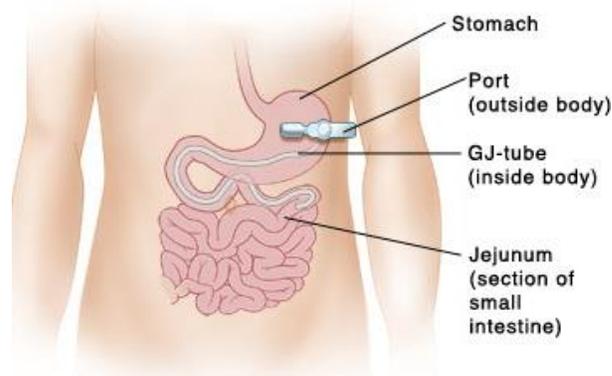


Gastrojejunal Tube (GJ-tube) Plan of Care

Your child has a GJ-tube.

- A GJ-tube has two smaller tubes inside. They are called channels.
 - One channel, called the Gastric or G-Port, ends in the stomach.
 - The other channel, called the Jejunal or J-port, ends in the small intestine.
- There may be times when you have problems with this type of tube.
- It is important for you to be aware of these possible problems.
- It is also important that you and your child's doctor have a plan of care in case these problems happen.



What problems can happen with a GJ-tube?

- The J-port might clog.
- The J-port might move out of place from the intestine and into the stomach.
- The GJ-tube might get pulled out.

What do I do if these problems happen?

- It may seem scary, but it is not an emergency if the GJ-tube has a problem.
- Some solutions are listed below.
- Important note: GJ-tubes are replaced or unclogged in the Imaging (Radiology) Department using a special x-ray called fluoroscopy.

What if the GJ-tube is not in the right place?

- If the J-port is out of place, you will see formula in the G-port drainage bag or your child will vomit formula.
- Try to flush the G-port. Follow the same instructions for flushing the J-port.
 - If that works, your child's plan may include using the G-port until the GJ-tube can be replaced.
 - If your child is not able to tolerate feedings into their stomach, then stop the feeding and call or email your child's doctor or nurse.

What if the J-port of the GJ-tube is clogged?

- Use a 3 mL syringe filled with non-sugared carbonated water or club soda and try flushing.
- You may need to push and pull on the plunger in order to unclog it.
- Continue doing this using a 3 mL syringe filled with carbonated water.
- Use the push and pull action with the plunger until the tube flushes easily.
- If the J-port still will not flush after trying these things, try to flush the G-port.
 - If that works, your child’s plan may include using the G-port until the GJ-tube can be replaced.
 - Your child may not be tolerating the G-tube feeding if they are vomiting several times or having diarrhea or stomach pains. Stop the feeding and call or email your child’s doctor or nurse.

What if the GJ-tube falls out of the tract?

- Cover the opening with gauze and tape or a dry washcloth.
- If you were shown how to replace a G-tube, you may replace with an AMT long tube.
 - Your child’s plan may include using the replacement G-tube until the GJ-tube can be replaced.
- If you were not shown how to replace the G-tube or if your child’s tube has never been changed before, call your clinic nurse or the Imaging Department.
 - If it is after hours and your child cannot go without food, liquids or medicines, you will need to take your child to the emergency room.

How often does my child’s GJ-tube need to be replaced?

- GJ-tubes should be changed in the Imaging Department every 3 to 4 months.
- Call one of the numbers below to schedule an appointment:

Day	Time	Imaging Phone Number
Monday-Friday	7:30am – 5:30pm	(414) 266-3648 or (414)-266-3152
Weekday After Hours and Weekends		(414) 266-3116

What do I do if the GJ-tube falls out of the tract or gets clogged during off hours? (Off hours are after 4pm during the week and all day on Saturday and Sunday)

- Most children can go without feedings or liquids for 12 hours without any harm.
- If you’ve been told that your child cannot go without feedings or liquids, call the Imaging Department at 414-266-3116.
- If the GJ-tube gets clogged during off hours, you can try to feed your child into the stomach through the G-port. Use formula or Pedialyte® or Infalyte® until the tube can be replaced or repositioned.

Off hours, continued

- If your child's GJ tube falls out of the tract and you have been instructed on G-tube replacement, you may replace with an AMT long tube; then call for more instructions.
 - If you are unable to replace a G-tube, call Interventional Radiology Department:
****Other teaching sheets to help with this procedure: #3008 – Long Indwelling Tube with Water Balloon Insertion Procedure***
- Some children may need IV fluids. They may need to be admitted to the hospital while the GJ tube is not working. It will depend on your child's age and special medical needs.

Special instructions about medicines

If you are not able to use the tube or not able to replace the tube for any reason and your child cannot go without their medicines, bring your child to the emergency room.

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

- Has feeding problems such as vomiting or gagging.
- Had another illness at the time that you are not able to use the GJ-tube.
- 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.