



Information for Home Enterally Tube Fed (HETF) Patients attending Accident and Emergency (A&E)

A patient's guide

What happens when a HETF patient attends A&E?

If a HETF patient attends A&E with a non-tube related problem and their feeding tube is working; the problem which brought them to A&E **takes priority** over their tube.

If the patient has attended with a tube-related problem, the medical team will contact the Nutrition Clinical Nurse Specialist or Gastroenterology Registrar to provide the required medical guidance.

Can a HETF patient receive tube feeding in A&E?

Tube feeding cannot be started in A&E. **This is to ensure patient safety.** A&E staff are not trained to provide tube feeding and this environment is extremely busy, meaning staff will not have capacity to monitor safely. A&E is for emergency healthcare and **feeding is not an emergency.**

If a patient remains in A&E for a long period of time and there are concerns regarding dehydration; intravenous fluids can be provided.

What happens if a HETF patient is admitted to a ward?

If the patient is admitted from A&E to a ward: it is hospital policy to commence a '**Starter Feeding Regimen**' unless the ward dietitian is available immediately to prescribe the feed. This regimen is designed first and foremost for safety, as feeding regimens for home are usually different to those prescribed for patients who are ill.

For further information please speak to your nurse or doctor.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.PALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please email whh-tr.patient-information@nhs.net. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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Date published: 24/03/2023

Review date: 24/03/2025

Ref: EIM/Nut&Diet/HETFPAA&E/03

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