

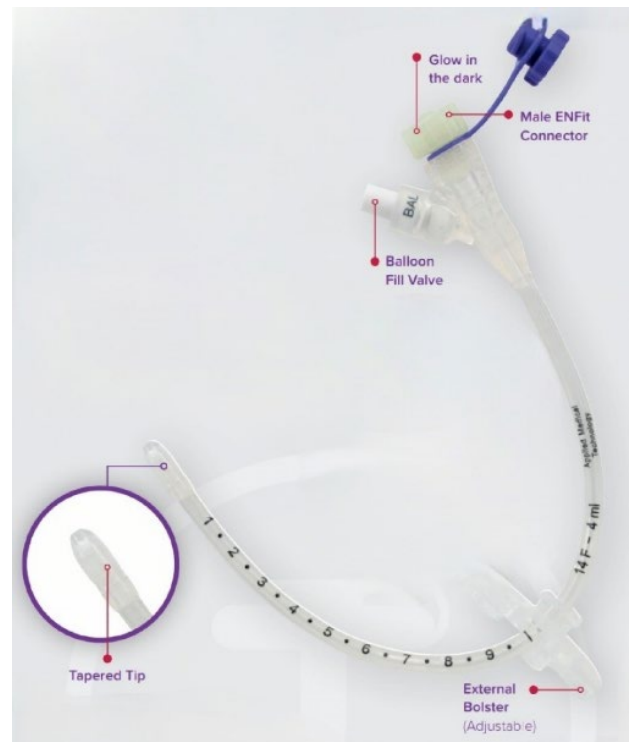


Looking after a balloon gastrostomy tube (14FR)

This information tells you how to look after an AMT 14FR balloon gastrostomy tube. If there is anything that you don't understand or you have any questions or concerns, please ask the enteral nutrition nurses at the Royal Berkshire Hospital or the Abbott community nurses.

Maintenance of the tube

- The tube should be flushed with 30 mL of cooled, boiled water before and after a feed.
- The tube should be flushed with 30 mL of cooled, boiled water when giving medication.
- Flush the tube daily with 30mL cooled, boiled water, even when not being used to feed.
- The feed port should be kept clean of feeding material.
- Clean and dry the outer surface of the tube and the retention bolster, every day. The retention bolster can be cleaned in place by carefully sliding it up the tube.
- The volume of water in the balloon must be checked once a month, as it is normal for small amounts of water to evaporate from the balloon over time – preferably this should be done before you start the feed.
- Throw away the evacuated water. Re-inflate the balloon using 3mL-5mL of sterile water as instructed by your enteral nutrition nurse
- Generally, a balloon gastrostomy tube needs replacing every 6 months. You may do this if you have been trained to or it can be done by the Abbott community nurses.



Contact numbers

Enteral Nutrition Clinical Nurse Specialists: Sarah Lupai / Olivia Bentley-Kydd / Jomille Marfil-Laureano Tel: 0118 322 8342 or Mobile: 07826 921372

Email: rbft.gastrostomyreferrals@nhs.net

Endoscopy Unit Tel: 0118 322 7459

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Endoscopy (Enteral Nutrition), June 2024. Next review due: June 2026.