



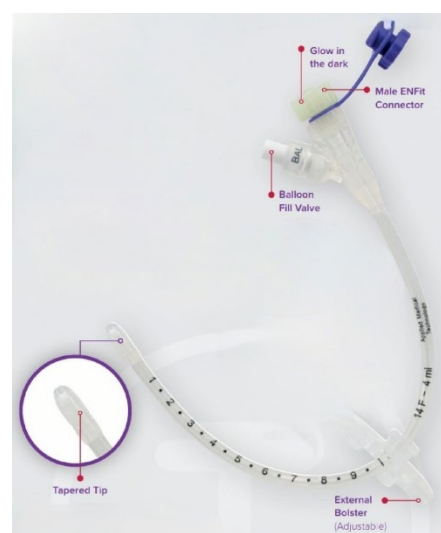
## Looking after a balloon gastrostomy tube 14fr

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

### Maintenance of the tube

Please follow your tailored feeding regime as advised by your dietitian; this guide is just for maintenance of the tube.

- The tube should be flushed with 30mls of cooled, boiled water before and after a feed.
- The tube should be flushed with 30mls of cooled, boiled water when giving medication.
- Flush the tube daily with 30mls 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. It is normal for small amounts of water to evaporate from the balloon over time.
- It is wise, when checking the volume in the balloon, to do this before you start the feed, as feed could leak from the stoma site.
- Throw away the evacuated water. Re-inflate the balloon using 4mls 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 Nutricia community nurses.



### Contact numbers

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

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