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END_598 PEG Nurse, Endoscopy
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Looking after a balloon gastrostomy tube

Information for patients,
relatives and carers

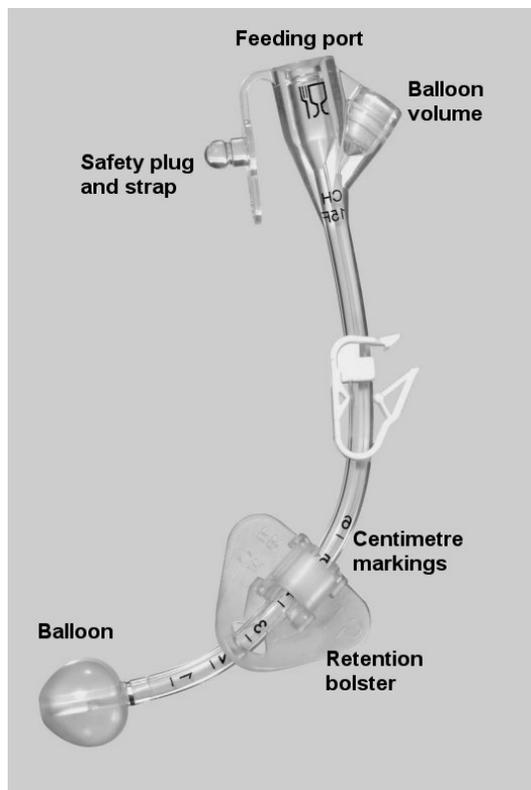
Important information for the care of your balloon gastrostomy tube

Introduction

This information tells you how to look after a balloon PEG tube. The balloon holds the tube in place on the inside of your stomach. If there is anything you don't understand or you have any questions or concerns, please ask the PEG Liaison Nurse.

Maintenance of the tube

- The tube should be flushed with 50ml of cooled, boiled water before and after a feed.
- The tube should be flushed with 20ml of cooled, boiled water when giving medication.
- Flush the tube daily with 50mls cooled, boiled water, even when not being used to feed.
- The feed port should be kept clean of feeding material.
- Clean the outer surface of the tube and the



retention bolster, every day with soap and water and dry. The retention bolster can be cleaned in place by carefully sliding it up the tube.

- Check the volume of water in the balloon every month. It is normal for small amounts of water to evaporate from the balloon over time.
- When changing the water in the balloon it is wise to do it before starting the feed as some feed may leak from the stoma site.
- Use a normal syringe to remove water from the balloon. Throw away the water.
- Re-inflate the balloon using 5mls of sterile water.
- Keep a note of the date when this procedure is carried out.
- Generally, a balloon PEG tube needs replacing every 6-9 months.
- You may do this if you have been trained or it can be done by the PEG Liaison Nurse in the Endoscopy Unit.

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