Personal Care of Feeding Tube Site

For first 2 weeks, inspect and clean the tube site two times a day. After, first two weeks, inspect tube site daily, and clean it at least once a day, or more if needed.

If swelling, redness, pain, or unusual drainage or odor occurs, report these signs to your primary care physician.

Supplies needed:
- Clean Gauze dressings
- Clean washcloth and towel
- Soap
- Warm water

If crust around tube is present:
- Hydrogen peroxide mixed with an equal amount of water
- Cotton-tipped swabs

Procedure:
1. Wash your hands with soap and water.
2. Remove the old dressing and tape. If your tube is taped in place, remove the tape. Be careful not to dislodge the tube.
3. Wash around the site with soap and water. Rinse well.
4. Use cotton-tipped swabs with an equal amount of hydrogen peroxide and water to remove any crusts. Use water to wash off hydrogen peroxide, and then dry the area.
5. Check the site for redness, swelling, or unusual drainage or odor. If you notice any of these signs, contact your primary care physician.
6. Place a new dressing around the tube if there is drainage. A small amount of drainage and ooze is normal around the stoma site. If there is a large amount of drainage, notify your primary care physician.
7. Tape the dressing in place or secure it as directed. It is not necessary to use a dressing if the site is dry.
8. Retape the tube as instructed.
9. DO NOT USE THE BALLOON PORT ON THE G-TUBE (IF PRESENT). It could interfere with correct feeding.

Bathing: You may shower after 24 hours, but wait one month after tube is placed before taking a tub bath.

Lifting: Lifting may cause your tube to move in and out – use caution. Discuss methods for keeping your tube in place with your health care team.

Call the Interventional Radiology Department at 601-984-2833 from 7am to 4pm. After 4pm, weekends and holidays, call your primary care physician. The UMC Emergency Department is available 24 hours a day at 601-984-4001. If it is an emergency, dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room.