

ABINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

1200 Old York Road Abington, PA 19001

Interventional Radiology Department Telephone: 215-481-2071

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GASTRIC TUBE DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

- You have had a gastric tube (feeding tube) placed in your abdomen.
- You should remove the bandage after 48 hours and replace with fresh gauze.
- Use the abdominal binder to help keep your tube secure.
- Follow home care protocol for flushing tube. At minimum tube should be flushed every twelve hours with 30 mL of tap water. Your tube should be flushed after every feeding with 30 mL of tap water.
- Liquid medications are preferred through the tube. If solid medications are used, they must be crushed into a fine powder and flushed with 30 mL of water. Do not put the medication sucralfate through the tube.
- Do not shower until you have returned for your suture removal. Sponge baths are preferred. If you must shower, use Saran wrap to tightly wrap around tube and abdomen to help keep site sealed.
- Do not drive a car or make any important decisions while on pain medicine.
- Do not engage in any excessive physical activity (i.e. heavy lifting) for 2 weeks after the procedure. You may then return to normal activities as tolerated.

Notify your primary physician and/or Radiologist IMMEDIATELY if any of the following occur:

- **Fever of 101 ° F (38.5 ° C)**
- **Trouble breathing during feeding, flushing, or giving medication**
- **Tube that can't be unclogged**
- **Tube falls out or if it appears to be out of place or if it breaks**
- **Nausea/Vomiting**
- **Bloody or coffee-colored drainage through tube**
- **New or worsening redness, warmth, or tenderness in skin around tube (it's normal to have mild discomfort or slight redness at the site, especially soon after placement)**
- **Sudden weight loss or gain in 24 hours**
- **Bloated or tight abdomen**
- **Increasing abdominal pain**

Physician Contact Information

- **If you have a problem that requires immediate attention, you should go to the emergency room, either at Abington Memorial Hospital or the closest hospital, or call 911.**
- Our office is open Monday through Friday (except major Holidays) from 7:30 AM to 4:00PM. We can be reached at 215-481-6226.
- If you are unable to reach our office and you have an urgent need, please call the following:
 - **During regular weekday hours (except major Holidays) from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, call 215-481-2071. Press #1 for outpatient needs and #3 to speak with a Radiology Nurse.**
 - **For after hour emergencies call 215-481-2000 and ask the hospital operator to contact the Interventional Radiologist on-call.**

Staff Signature _____ Date _____

Patient Signature _____ Date _____