



WARNING SIGNS *The following are some signs that a resident may be having tube feeding problems.*

Has one or more of the following happened:

- ☞ Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea
- ☞ Swollen or bloated stomach
- ☞ Constipation/Cramping

Where feeding tube enters body, is there:

- ☞ Pain, redness, heat or swelling
- ☞ Crusty or oozing fluid
- ☞ Does the resident have a cough, wet breathing or a feeling of something “caught” in the throat.

Action Steps On Back



ACTION STEPS *Below is a list of steps a Nurse Assistant can do to help a resident at risk for tube feeding problems.*

- ☞ Report to the nurse & dietitian what warning signs you saw
- ☞ Keep position of the residents head elevated 30 degrees or more as tolerated during feedings and for at least 30 minutes after feeding.
- ☞ Do not position the resident on their left side during tube feedings



ACTION STEPS *Below is a list of steps other Members of the Interdisciplinary Team can do to help a resident at risk for tube feeding problems*

- ☞ Assess pain and other complaints to rule out Non-tube feeding causes
- ☞ Assess/revise medications to minimize complications/ Pain, if indicated
- ☞ Check placement of tube and residual prior to each feeding
- ☞ Check tube for obstructions
- ☞ Flush tube regularly
- ☞ Properly elevates residents head at 30 degrees

Action Steps Continued On Back

ACTION **CONTINUED**

STEPS

- ☞ Modify tube feeding administration, rate, strength,
And formula, if necessary
- ☞ Reassess need for tube feeding; transition to oral
Feedings, if appropriate
- ☞ Assist the resident to develop an advance directive
regarding feeding/hydration issues