Parents can be offered the option to tube feed their infant if the following criteria have been met:

**NOTE:** Tube feeds by a parent must be performed in the presence of nursing staff.

1. Senior Medical/CNC approval has been obtained and documented on the infant’s ‘Tube Feeding Pack’.
2. Infant is not ventilated (including nasal CPAP/HHF).
3. Infant is tolerating full enteral feeds and medically stable. Normally this will not occur before the infant reaches 1200 grams.
4. The parent has expressed a willingness to take on the procedure, has received education as per the Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents NGT Feeding and is assessed as safe (competent) in performing a tube feed for their infant.
5. The infant is due a tube feed.
6. If a top up tube feed is required after a breastfeed.
7. Infants must be returned to the incubator/cot for tube feeds by parents.

**Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines**

Neonatal Clinical Guideline - Gastric Tubes: Learning Package for Parents NGT Feeding