

BE A.L.E.R.T.

BE Practice Safe Enteral Medication Delivery

AWAWARE

Ask the Pharmacist about...



- drug-nutrient interactions
- drug-drug interactions
- adverse drug reactions
- appropriate dosage form
- risk of a drug clogging the tube
- whether location of the feeding tube's distal end allows safe and adequate drug delivery

Water ONLY



- to dilute medications (including liquid meds)
- to routinely flush the tube
- flush before/after each medication administered using an amount appropriate for the patient's age and condition
- use water **ONLY** (no carbonated beverages, juices, coffee, other liquids)



Administer medications

- identify if tube location (distal end) allows for safe and adequate drug delivery
- 1 medication at a time – do not mix drugs together
- do not add medication directly to formula
- identify medications that must be separated from formula by ≥ 30 minutes



Remember the 'Rights'

- **right** patient, drug, time, dose, route (**PO \neq via tube**)
- **right** syringe, drug formulation, dilution, tube and medication port
Only:
 - oral or enteral syringes
 - immediate-release solid or oral liquid dosage forms

Establish evidence-based protocols



- follow your facility's medication protocols
- establish specific enteral medication protocols based on:
 - National Guidelines
 - Practice Recommendations
 - www.nutritioncare.org/safety



American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

www.nestlenutrition.com/us
1-800-422-ASK2 (2752)

www.nutritioncare.org

An A.S.P.E.N. safety campaign, supported by Nestlé HealthCare Nutrition.