

NOVEL News aspEN

New Opportunities for Verification of Enteral Tube Location Project

NOVEL NEWS UPDATE

Greetings all, and happy 2026! I am writing to update you on NOVEL projects that continue to address pediatric feeding tube placement, but with a wider scope. Even though the original NOVEL project group is on hiatus, as we did define and disseminate best practices for pediatric NG tube placement verification, much work has been done in related areas. Feel free to contact me with any questions about the NOVEL project at lymanb2954@gmail.com.

—Beth Lyman, MSN, RN, FASPEN, FAAN

NOVEL G-TUBE

Based on feedback from the Pediatric Section of ASPEN, a proposal was submitted to the board of directors to convene an interdisciplinary, inter-organization workgroup to define best practice for balloon gastrostomy tube (BGT) replacement verification. This amazing group of professionals—representing pediatric surgery, gastroenterology, pediatrics, and emergency medicine—consisted of physicians, nurses, and nurse practitioners. The group developed 15 PICOT questions, reviewed the literature, and formulated recommendations for routine and non-routine BGT replacement. *The ASPEN Nutrition Guidelines for Replacement of a Balloon Gastrostomy Tube in Infants and Pediatric Patients* manuscript will be published in the *Journal of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (JPEN)* in 2026.

The ASPEN panel of experts working on pediatric balloon gastrostomy replacement guidelines has also developed two sets of resources for clinicians, one on routine replacement and one on replacement of dislodged tubes. Please share this information with your colleagues!

The **routine feeding tube replacement** resources are two videos, titled *Routine Replacement of a Low Profile Balloon Gastrostomy (LPBG) Tube in Pediatric Patients*

- [Video for Clinicians](#)
- [Video for Caregivers](#)

The **dislodged feeding tube replacement** resources are two algorithms:

- [Replacement of a Dislodged Balloon Gastrostomy Tube \(BGT\) in the ED for the Pediatric Patient](#)
- [Replacement of a Dislodged Balloon Gastrostomy Tube \(BGT\) in the Outpatient Setting for the Pediatric Patient](#)

Three free webinars are planned for May 2026 on the following topics:

1. Pediatric balloon gastrostomy placement and routine replacement
2. Dislodged tubes and replacement
3. Transition from pediatric to adult care with these tubes

Refer to page 3 of the newsletter to see the complete list of NOVEL G-tube members.

NOVEL NICU

Our last NOVEL study, led by LaDonna Northington, documented impressive trends toward using evidence-based methods to verify NG tube placement in pediatric patients, but not in neonates. As a result, the NOVEL NICU group was formed and co-chaired by Dr. Leslie Parker, PhD, RN, NNP, from the University of Florida, and me. Our intent was to define best practices for this very fragile patient population of neonates, but we found we could not do so because there is insufficient evidence for any one method. Consequently, Dr. Parker and the workgroup have authored a scoping review on the status of using pH to verify NG tube placement in NICU patients. A scoping review examines the current literature to map existing knowledge on a specific question and identifies gaps where further research is needed. While the use of NG and OG tubes is practically ubiquitous in the NICU, there is a lack of high-quality research to guide practice on placement verification. This scoping review will be published in *JPEN* in 2026. Refer to pages 3 and 4 of the newsletter to see the complete list of NOVEL NICU members.

NOVEL CHINA

In 2024, I was invited to speak at a nursing conference in Beijing, China, on Enteral Feeding Intolerance. During the Q&A session, the focus quickly shifted to the NOVEL Project and why such a project is needed in China. A grant was submitted to and accepted by Nestlé for funding. By the fall of 2024, NOVEL China was announced at the Pediatric Committee meeting of the Chinese Nurses Association's Annual Conference.

I serve as an advisor to this group of 50+ hospitals that are geographically and medically diverse, enabling smaller regional pediatric hospitals, larger university hospitals, and many mid-size pediatric centers to collaborate on defining and disseminating best practices. Two research studies have been completed to date: one to obtain baseline prevalence and practice information, and one qualitative study to identify barriers and facilitators to using evidence-based methods to verify NG/OG tube placement. We now meet monthly via conference call to discuss nursing-related nutrition support issues.

These dedicated nurses are developing a platform to change not only their practice but also others' by harnessing their research and clinical expertise. These monthly calls are enlightening for everyone. It is true that nurses around the world face similar challenges: together, we can methodically improve care for all our patients!

2025-2026 PRESENTATIONS

In September 2025, I spoke at the Annual Pediatric Nurses Committee Conference in Urumqi, China, on De-implementation Science and how the NOVEL project successfully got nurses to change practice.

All three of the projects mentioned above will be highlighted during a session at the ASPEN 2026 Nutrition Science & Practice Conference in Long Beach, CA, in February, and I will also be highlighting the NOVEL project's work at the Japanese Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, to be held in Yokohama in February.

CLOSING

The accomplishments of these NOVEL projects, along with the original group, represent work that many of you have done to promote evidence-based methods for feeding tube placement verification. None of this progress could have been made without significant collaboration among dedicated professionals. While I thought the 11th edition of NOVEL News would be our last, it seems there is still work to be done!

WORK GROUP MEMBERS

NOVEL G-Tube

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NOVEL NICU

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