

This document was also approved by CCOC.

This is a temporary practice and will change as needed

Goals

- Utilize gravity feeding bags to provide safe delivery of enteral nutrition in the event of enteral pump supply shortages

Pump Utilization and Alternate Feeding Strategies:

Feeding Modality	Eligible Patient
Enteral Pump (continuous infusion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID positive; critically ill patients Any critically ill patient on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proning therapy Continuous insulin drip with difficulty achieving glycemic control Demonstrated intolerance to continuous rate > 30 mL/hr or bolus feeding New jejunal feeding
Gravity Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any critically ill patient not meeting the above criteria who is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to tolerate bolus feeding, but is tolerating continuous rate \geq 35 mL/hr <p>** Not appropriate if goal is trophic rate **</p>
Bolus Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate any acute care patient for readiness to transition off feeding pump Nutritionally stable ICU patients (demonstrated tolerance of TF at goal rate x 24 hr and no insulin drip, or per clinical judgment)

Gravity Feeding Guidelines

Refer to General Procedure for the care of Enteral nutrition tubes, including feeding and medication administration found [here](#).

Administration

- Using aseptic technique, pour the formula into the feeding container / bag.
- Enteral formula that is decanted into gravity feeding bags has a maximum hangtime of 4 hours.** The tubing must be dated and changed daily.
- Remaining formula in the Ready to Hang (RTH) bottle should be covered and refrigerated for up to 48 hours at which point any unused product be discarded.

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4. Hang the container on an IV pole or a wall hook about 2 feet above and to the side of the feeding tube. Ensure that the head of the bed is in the proper position (approximately 30°– 45°).
5. Remove the cover from the end of the feeding set. The roller clamp should be closed.
6. Prime the feeding set by allowing the formula to flow into the tube.
7. Insert the tip of the feeding set (ENFit[®] *) into the feeding tube.
8. Slowly open the clamp on the tubing.
9. Set the flow to the desired gravity drip rate. Use the clamp to control the flow until desired rate is achieved. Make the flow faster by slowly opening the clamp. Make the flow slower by partially closing the clamp.
10. When the feeding is complete, close the clamp.
11. If extra water is desired after feedings, pour the prescribed amount into the container to flush the tube.
12. Open the clamp and let the water drip until gone.
13. Close the clamp and disconnect the feeding set.

Gravity Feeding Flow Rate

For gravity feeding, the formula flow rate will be ——— drops or ——— mL per——— seconds.

- To determine the number of drops per hour, divide the dose by the feeding time (hours) and multiply it by the drip factor (based on the assumption of 14 drops = 1 mL of formula).
- To determine the number of drops per hour multiply the number of drops per minute by 60.
- Watch the drip chamber and time the drops according to the following examples:

Volume Over 4 Hours (mL)	Approximate Rate (mL/hr)	Drops/Min
<i>Gravity feeding at ≤ 30 mL/hr is not recommended</i>		
140	35	8
160	40	9
180	45	11
200	50	12
220	55	13
240	60	14
260	65	15
280	70	16
300	75	18
320	80	19
340	85	21
360	90	22
280	95	23
400	100	24

*Based on 14 drops per mL

*High viscosity will result in fewer drops; low viscosity will result in more drops

The orders that now have **By Gravity** as an option:

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[DOCUMENT TITLE]

- Diet, Adult Tube Feeding-NPO
- Diet, Adult Tube Feeding with Oral Diet
- Diet, Pediatric Tube Feeding-NPO
- Diet, Pediatric Tube Feeding with Oral Diet

Providers/Dietitians will complete the following By Gravity order details:

- Volume over 4 hours (mL)
- Drops per minute
- APPROXIMATE Hourly Rate (mL)

Within the order, there's a hyperlink to a reference table for volume and drop rate. Click the **Order Report icon** in Active orders to access the hyperlink. The icon appears when the cursor is placed next to **Discontinue**.

Active Orders:

Placeholder for EMR Screen

Order Report:

Placeholder for EMR Screen