PROCEDURE FOR GASTROSTOMY VENTING

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1. Review the orders.

2. Assemble equipment:
   60-ml catheter-tipped syringe
   Extension tubing with clamp
   Gloves

3. Explain the procedure to the student at his/her level of understanding. Encourage the student to participate as much as possible.
   Position student
   Wash hands, put on gloves
   Visually inspect the button/gastrostomy tube, stoma and abdomen. If abnormalities are noted, check placement following procedure guidelines, page ________.

4. Remove plunger from syringe and connect the extension tubing.

5. Clamp the tubing.

6. Open cap of gastrostomy device and connect the tubing into device.

7. Unclamp tubing and allow air in stomach to rise.

8. After no more air is escaping from the stomach, allow stomach contents to return. Clamp the extension tubing and disconnect from the gastrostomy device. Close safety valve.

9. Refer to student-specific guidelines regarding position and activity after venting.

10. Wash catheter-tipped syringe and extension tubing with warm water and mild soap. Rinse, dry, and store in clean, labeled container.

11. Remove gloves. Wash hands.

12. Document venting in Healthmaster and on Easy-Trac, if applicable.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Anticipating the tasks to be done, the risks involved, and the personal protective equipment needed will enhance protection of both the caregiver and student.

Make sure the order has not changed.

By encouraging the student to assist in the procedure, the caregiver helps the student achieve maximum self-help skills.

Student must be in an upright or semi-fowler’s position, unless otherwise ordered by licensed healthcare provider.

Identify size and type of gastrostomy device. Look for bloating or abdominal distention. Check size, placement and stoma for abnormalities.

If stomach contents start to enter syringe, lower syringe and allow stomach contents to return to the stomach.

Do not discard any residual that may come back with venting.

Be alert to any changes in the student’s condition.