

CLEANING AND REUSING FEEDING TUBE EXTENSION SETS

Information for patients, parents and carers who use low profile button gastrostomy feeding tubes at home

Low profile feeding tubes and extension sets

Low profile, or 'button' gastrostomy feeding tubes are used to deliver enteral feeds directly into the stomach or small intestine. They fit snugly to the skin and are comfortable and discreet. An 'extension set' is fitted to the device before giving feed, water, or medications. This can then be removed, cleaned, and stored until it is required again.

How do I wash my reusable syringes?

Clean your extension set as soon as possible after use to prevent the contents drying and sticking to the tube.

Wash the tube in warm soapy water until any residue is removed, then rinse with clean tap water.

Leave to air dry and then store in a clean tub or sandwich bag until required.



Do I need to sterilise my extension sets?

- For neonates and babies under one year equipment must be sterilised.
- Sterilising is not usually required for children over one year or adults unless it has been advised by your specialist healthcare team (please discuss this with your dietitian or community nursing team if you have any questions).
- If you or someone you care for is fed via the jejunum (first part of the small intestine) it is not usually necessary to sterilise feeding equipment. If you are unsure, please discuss this with your dietitian.
- Please note: extension sets may not last the full 14 day lifespan if they are being sterilised. Materials may degrade more quickly. This should be taken into account by your dietitian when arranging your supplies

Sterilising method:

1. Fill your sterilising unit with cold tap water and add sterilising liquid or a sterilising tablet as per instructions on the packaging.
2. Clean the extension set as per instructions on the previous pages
3. Place the washed extension set in the prepared sterilising unit.
4. Close the lid and submerge the items under water for a minimum of 15 minutes or until needed. Replace the sterilising fluid within the sterilising unit every 24 hours.
5. Use a separate sterilising unit for each person's extension sets.

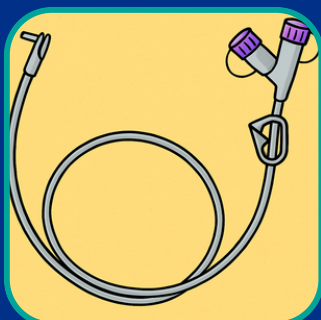
Note on dishwashers

Dishwashers are not suitable to use for cleaning extension sets.

Where do my extension sets come from?

Extension sets are usually supplied by your home enteral feeding delivery company along with feed and other equipment.

Speak with your dietitian or community nursing service if you have any questions about your delivery.



If you have any questions about the content of this flyer, please contact your home enteral feeding dietetic team.