

Enteral Plastic Safety Group (EPSG)* Statement

Liquidised Food

Due to increasing enquiries from patients and clinicians regarding the practice of administering liquidised food via enteral feeding tubes, the EPSG has reached a consensus to **not** endorse this method of enteral feeding practice. NICE guidelines recommend that wherever possible, pre-packaged, ready-to-use feeds should be used in preference to feeds requiring decanting, reconstitution or dilution¹. In general, the manufacturer's guidance states that only enteral feeding products defined as Foods for Special Medical Purposes and water are administered via enteral feeding tubes, giving/extension sets and feeding pumps in the UK.

Any patient/carer wishing to make an informed choice to administer liquidised food via their enteral feeding tube should have an individualised enteral feeding risk assessment carried out in line with their Trust or Clinical Commissioning Group risk assessment policy. The level of risk identified should form a written agreement by the relevant patient/carer/clinician in line with local guidance.

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2012): Infection - CG139. Recommendation 1.3.2.1

*The EPSG (Enteral Plastic Safety Group) represents all leading UK enteral feeding devices suppliers, with clinical representation from the PENG of the BDA, NNNG and endorsed by PINNT. The aim of this forum is to discuss enteral feeding device safety from both a clinical and manufacturing perspective. The term 'enteral feeding device' refers to any type of feeding tube that is placed into the gastro-intestinal tract i.e. naso-gastric (NG), naso-jejunal (NJ), gastrostomy (Button, PEG/RIG) or jejunostomy (JEJ), as well as giving/extension sets, syringes and enteral feeding pumps. In this statement we have used the term liquidised food; alternative descriptions that are used include blenderised feeds, blenderised food, liquidised diet, blended diet and pureed table food. The following companies are members of the EPSG: Abbott; Baxter; Corpak; Covidien; Fresenius Kabi; GB (Enteral) UK; Intervene; Medicina; Nutricia; Vygon.



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