



Home Medical Equipment: Feeding Pump

The neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) team celebrates with you as your baby goes home! After graduation from the NICU, your baby will need special home medical equipment (also called durable medical equipment) to help keep him or her well.

Why does my baby need this equipment?

- Some babies who need extra nutrition or cannot swallow require special feeding tubes. A nasogastric tube (NG tube) is inserted into the nose and goes directly down into the stomach. A gastrostomy tube (G-tube) goes directly into the stomach. A jejunostomy tube (J-tube) goes past the stomach and directly into the top part of the small intestine (called the *jejunum*). Proper nutrition helps your baby to have the best health and healing abilities.
- A *feeding pump* is a small electric or battery-powered machine that sends formula or breast milk (liquid food) through a tube that connects to your baby's feeding tube.
- The feeding pump controls how much of the food is given, how fast, and for how long.

Vendor Information

A company, also called a vendor, will bring the equipment to your home and teach you how to use and manage any problems with the equipment that may arise.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Other Emergency Numbers: _____

Important Things to Remember

- Always follow the directions for mixing your baby's formula or breast milk.
- Always follow the directions given by the vendor of the feeding pump.
- Always follow the schedule for your baby's feedings. A *bolus feeding* is a large amount of feeding given at regular meal times over a set amount of time (usually 20–30 minutes). A *continuous feeding* is given slowly (usually overnight); small amounts of food go through the feeding pump each hour.
- Some babies who need a feeding pump are also able to eat by mouth. Be sure to talk with your baby's provider to check if it is safe for your baby to take any food or liquid by mouth.
- Do not stop using the special formula or feeding pump until your baby's provider says it is safe to do so.
- Check with your insurance company to see if they can arrange to have the formula sent directly to your house. Make sure you have extra supplies and formula on hand so you don't run out.
- Call your emergency medical services, telephone, and electric companies to let them know that your baby uses a feeding pump. This is important because if there is a power outage or emergency, you will be on a priority list for help.
- You may be nervous at first, but with practice, you will become more comfortable using the equipment. It's always OK to ask for help! Make sure you ask your baby's healthcare provider who you can call for help, questions, and concerns.

The above information is to help you better understand your baby's care. Always follow the instructions given by your baby's provider and ask questions if you have concerns about your baby.

Online Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.aap.org

Kids Health
www.kidshealth.org