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|  MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION, GASTROSTOMY TUBE  | NO.  |
| PURPOSE:To provide specific guidelines for administration of medications through gastrostomy tube.STATEMENT OF POLICY:Facility will provide safe administration of physician ordered medications through a gastrostomy or peg tube. Licensed Nursing staff only may administer medications. Licensed nurse will be trained in the correct procedure to follow when administering medications.PROCEDURE:1. Procedure for Administration of Physician Ordered Medications.
2. Medications will be given using clean technique.
3. Prior to giving medication, check the tube placement by either:
4. Auscultation with a stethoscope over the left upper quadrant while injecting 20-30 ml. of air into tube (you should hear a bubbling sound as the air enters the stomach), or aspirate back gastric contents. This will confirm that the tube is in the stomach. Document tube placement checks on the MAR.
5. If you choose to check placement using both procedures, be sure to aspirate first and re-instill contents, then check with air to prevent collapsing of the tube.
6. Consider the timing of the medication, and check whether it should be given on an empty or full stomach.
7. Flush the tube with 30 ml. of water before and after medication is administered. (or per physician’s order)
8. Multiple medications should be given one at a time to avoid drug-drug interactions and tubing should be flushed with 10 ml. of water between medications. (or per physician’s order)
9. Dilute liquid medications with at least 30 ml. of water to reduce osmolality.
10. Do not mix liquids; tablets or capsules, as mixing may cause a precipitate to form.
11. After confirming that tablets may be crushed, crush finely and disperse well in water.
12. Capsules should be opened and dissolved in water.
13. Do not mix medications with feeding formulas prior to administration to avoid drug-nutrient interactions.
14. Avoid excessive force when administering medications or irrigating the tube. Allow the medication and the water to flow in by gravity. May use very gentle pressure to start flow if necessary.
15. Fluid used to give medications will be considered incidental fluid and not included in calculation of intake unless resident has a problem with fluid overload or is on fluid restrictions.
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| Approved: | Effective Date: | Revision Date: | Change No.: | Page: 1 of 1 |