Nasogastric Tube Placement Check

Estimate NEX measurement

Fully insert NGT (as per manufacturer instructions) to NEX point

Aspirate NGT

Adults: 20ml syringe and gentle suction
Paediatrics: 10-20ml syringe and gentle suction

Aspirate obtained?

YES

Test aspirate using pH indicator paper

pH 0.5-5.5

Commence feeding

Document pH in progress notes MR12

Continue to check pH as indicated: before medication/feed commenced, once every 8 hours, or if concerned tube may have moved

pH 5-6

Second person checks pH of aspirate

Recheck aspirate after 30-60 mins

Discuss with nurse in charge/doctor: resite OR xray?

pH 5.5 - 6

NO

Aspirate obtained?

Techniques to obtain aspirate:

✓ Turn patient on left side
✓ Inject air into NGT (Adults 10-20mls via 50ml syringe, Paediatrics 1-5mls via 10-20ml syringe)
✓ Wait 15-30 minutes and attempt to aspirate again
✓ Advance or withdraw NGT and attempt to reaspirate (Adults 10-20cm, Paediatrics 1-2cm)
✓ Give mouth care to patients who are NBM (can stimulate gastric secretions)
✓ DO NOT flush with water as water in the tube could lead to false pH values being obtained

YES

Discuss with treating doctor

Remove and resite OR Xray?

If x-ray ensure reason for request is noted, so radiographer ensures NGT tip is visible


V1 2016