What is a PEG or a PEJ Tube?

PEG = Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy.
PEJ = Percutaneous Endoscopic Jejunostomy.

These tubes can be used by people who have trouble swallowing or who are at risk for food going into the lungs.

PEG tubes are inserted through a small cut in the abdomen into the stomach.
PEJ tubes are inserted through a small cut in the abdomen into the small intestines, in the section called the jejunum. This tube is much smaller in diameter and can become easily clogged so care must be taken when giving medicines. **Liquid medicines should be used whenever possible.** Most of your medicine should be in liquid form. Check with your doctor. If there is no liquid form of the drug available, be sure that it is totally dissolved prior to giving yourself the medicine.

Care of PEG or PEJ Tube

Every day from the day after the tube is put in place until about Day 10, you should:

1. Check skin around site for infection or irritation (redness, drainage, swelling). Tell the visiting nurse or your doctor if you see signs of infection.
2. Clean the area around the tube (called the stoma) with sterile water and sterile gauze.
3. Dry area completely with sterile gauze.
4. Cover with sterile gauze and apply tape.

Every day **after** about 10 days, you should:

1. Check skin around site for infection or irritation (redness, drainage, swelling).
2. Tell visiting nurse or your doctor if you see signs of infection.
3. Clean stoma site with soap and water
4. Dry area completely.
5. Rotate PEG tube to prevent sticking to the track.
6. Do not rotate PEJ tubes.
When to Call the Doctor or Nurse

- If you see signs of infection: Fever, redness, pain, swelling or thick yellow/green drainage from G-Tube site.
- Stomach contents greater than 350ml.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.
- If tube gets clogged or comes out.

Your Instructions for Home

Your visiting nurse: _______________________________________________

Your Formula

Obtain supplies and formula from: ___________________________________

Formula name or brand: ____________________________________________

Daily amount and rate: ____________________________________________

Daily water flushes: _______________________________________________

More Ways to Learn

Tube Feeding Tips from the Oley Foundation.  

Online Patient Education Tube Feeding for Patients & Caregivers from The Nourish Program (with videos showing how to do tube feeding and how to take care of the site).  
https://wenourish.com/consumers/education/default.aspx

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Note: This information is not meant to replace any information or personal medical advice which you get directly from your doctor(s). If you have any questions about this information, such as the risks or benefits of the treatment listed, please ask your doctor(s).  

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