

*Jackson County Medical Control Authority*  
**Community Paramedicine Protocols**  
FEEDING TUBE CARE

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***Feeding Tube Care***

**Indications:** This protocol provides general guidance for the evaluation of patients with Feeding Tube problems under the Community Paramedicine Program. These complaints may include feeding tube blockage, damage or the need for replacement of the Feeding Tube. The CPU will respond to a residence on request from the primary care provider, on request by the patient through 911 triage or on referral from ALS 911 response. The CP will follow guidelines outlined by the primary care providers or on-line medical direction orders.

**Purpose:** To assess complaints related to Feeding Tubes.

**CPU Directives:**

1. Follow **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments**.
2. Obtain and review patient health history and primary care provider's orders prior to evaluation when available.
3. Examine the feeding tube for patency, functionality and placement.
4. Attempt to identify the type of feeding tube.
5. If there is evidence of feeding tube blockage, flush the tube using a small (approx. 10 ml) syringe. If unable to establish good flow and the tube is in place, consider making arrangement for feeding tube replacement.
6. If the feeding tube is non-functional, damaged or has become displaced, consider replacement of the tube, if indicated, or making arrangement for feeding tube replacement.
7. If the feeding tube has become displaced, consider placement of a temporary Foley Catheter in the existing tract if indicated.
8. Contact the PCP or on-line medical direction per the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments** along with the patient report and discuss treatment and continuity plans.
9. Continue treatment and follow the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments** until a disposition is determined and continuity plan completed.