Emergency Use of the Gravity Method for Tube Feeding

If your feeding pump is not working, call the emergency phone number on your pump: 866.614.PUMP (7867). If the issue cannot be resolved, and a new pump cannot be delivered to you the same day, you may need to use an alternate method of feeding. **Call your doctor before using the gravity feeding method**, to ensure that you are able to administer gravity feeding safely until the replacement pump arrives. If **you have a jejunostomy tube (J-tube)**, do not use the gravity method unless your doctor instructs you to do so.

An emergency gravity feeding kit has been provided for you to use until you receive a replacement pump. Please follow these instructions for its use.

**Supplies needed:**
- Gravity feeding set
- IV pole
- Formula
- 60 mL syringe
- Waste container

**Instructions:**
1. Wash your hands.
2. Hang the bag so that the drip chamber is positioned 2 to 3 feet above your feeding tube.
3. Close the roller clamp by rolling it down.
4. Pour about 240 mL of formula into the bag and close it.
5. Remove the cap from the end of the tubing on your gravity feeding set and place the end of the tube into a container.
6. To remove air from the bag and tubing, slowly open the roller clamp and allow formula to travel down the tubing until it is almost to the end, then close the roller clamp.
7. Using a 60 mL syringe, flush your feeding tube with 30-60 mL of water.
8. Sit up in a chair, or elevate your torso to 30-45 degrees. Remain in this position for at least 30 minutes after your feeding.
9. Attach the end of the tubing to your feeding tube.
10. Use the roller clamp to control the flow of formula. A slower rate will decrease symptoms of intolerance, such as nausea or abdominal bloating.
11. Allow the formula to drip over 30-60 minutes.
12. When the feeding is done, close the roller clamp and disconnect the bag from your feeding tube.
13. Flush your feeding tube with 30-60 mL of water.
14. Rinse the bag and tubing with warm water and air dry between each use.

Should you have questions about this procedure, please call the Shield HealthCare Corporate Dietitian at 1.800.382.6891 Monday-Friday between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm PST, or if after hours, call 866.614.PUMP (7867).

**Tip:** Use a new bag every 24 hours.

These instructions do not replace the medical advice of your healthcare provider. They also do not replace the manufacturer’s product information, instructions for use and warnings. Always consult your home care nurse or doctor if you have specific questions on product use or medical care.