Navigating the Transition to New Enteral Connectors

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Disclosures

• Alcresta
  – Speaker’s Bureau
  – Advisory Board

• Avanos
  – Consultant

• NeoMed
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Objectives

• Explain the rationale for the ENFit connectors
• Discuss some tips for successful use at home
• Dispel myths and share facts related to this practice change
Why Change Connections

Did you know enteral medications and feedings could be given intravenously?

Did you know a blood pressure cuff could be connected to an IV catheter?

Did you know medications meant to be given via feeding tube sometimes are put down into an endotracheal tube?
GEDSA—aka Global Enteral Device Suppliers Association

Worked with International Organization of Standardization to develop ISO 80369 connector series or ENFit to us.

Formed in 2013 to address this patient safety concern

This is a worldwide effort composed of technical, clinical and regulatory/standards experts.
What Does This Mean For Consumers/Patients?

• Enteral syringes need a physician order.
  – NeoConnect at Home syringes will be available this fall and do not require a physician order

• The way medications are drawn up is important.

• The connectors need to be cleaned.

• You may need to take adapters to other facilities in order to receive enteral meds.
Tips for Success

- Do not prime the tubing all the way to the end of the feeding set.
- If using a blended diet you may need to add more water to the feeding.
- Use water and a toothbrush or commercial brush to vigorously clean the groves in the moat.
Drawing Up Medications
Other Ways to Draw up Meds

• Stick the syringe into the medication bottle or medication cup
  – Be sure to swirl the tip of the syringe in water before giving the medication to prevent the sticky medication from getting into the moat
  – Tap the tip of the syringe into the medication bottle to remove medication from the moat
• Use a medication straw
Cleaning the Connectors

- Hand Hygiene
- Use a toothbrush or commercial brush
- Use water
- Pulse flush water into moat and down into extension set
- For a PEG tube, plug the stem with something
Cleaning Tips

• Do this at least daily

• Clean whenever you see residue in the moat

• Dried residue comes out much easier and faster if you pulse flush plenty of water into the moat.

• If placing a cap over the port, dry the moat and cap first
Myths about ENFit

Blended diets will not go through the syringe tip.

The gtube will now get pulled out instead of disconnecting.

Medication doses are inaccurate.

This is an unsafe system.
Facts about ENFit

• Supplies can be a challenge for some families to obtain early on from their DME companies.
• Now there is a recommended way to clean supplies which we did not have before.
• Families see this as a safety issue that protects their loved ones.
Final Thought

Know safety-no injury

No safety-know injury

Author unknown