

Feeding Tube Awareness Week Toolkit

February 4–10, 2024, is #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek!

Feeding Tube Awareness Week is an annual event to help inform people about feeding tubes and their role as critical life-saving interventions. Feeding tubes can be used for a variety of reasons, and they are often used as a long-term solution for people who are unable to consume food orally due to medical conditions or disabilities. Feeding Tube Awareness Week aims to normalize the reality of receiving nutrition in different ways and to provide support and resources for individuals and families who rely on feeding tubes. Feeding Tube Awareness Week is essential to this community because it gives consumers, caregivers, clinicians, and care partners a platform for challenging stereotypes, connecting affected families, and allowing individuals to share their stories.

Oley created this toolkit to make it easy for **you** to help raise awareness and normalize the reality of receiving nutrition in different ways. The medical term for tube feeding is enteral nutrition (EN). EN is administered directly into a person's stomach or intestine through a feeding tube.

This week, Oley will be sharing facts about tube feeding, resources for people who rely on tube feeding for their nutrition, and ways to connect with the larger tube-feeding community.

Here are some ways you can get involved during Feeding Tube Awareness Week:

1. Get vocal on social media. Share the facts and messaging below, or share your own story and experiences, using the hashtag #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek.
2. Debunk misinformation. For example, hold educational discussions (formal or informal) at your school or place of work to share personal experiences and promote a better understanding.
3. Support those with a feeding tube. Feeding tubes provide a chance to get better and healthier, but it is not always an easy road. Be compassionate and support their fight.
4. Head to [oley.org/patientsprofiles](https://www.oley.org/patientsprofiles) to read about some of Oley's incredible members who are on tube feeding and other types of nutrition support and share the stories that you find meaningful!

Joining the Oley Foundation is a great way to stay informed about feeding tubes and related topics. As a member, you'll receive notifications about educational events, important updates, and opportunities to connect with the home tube feeding community. You can join Oley for free by visiting their website at oley.org/joinnow. They also have a Facebook and Instagram page where you can find more information and connect with other people who rely on feeding tubes.

Find us on Facebook or Instagram by clicking the logos below or searching #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek



/theoleyfoundation



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/the-oley-foundation

Feeding Tube Awareness Week Facts & Messaging

Copy & paste these facts and resources to share on social media channels using the hashtags #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek and #FTAW to help educate and inform others about feeding tubes and the nutrition support community.

- Tube feeding is nutrition administered directly into the stomach or intestine through a tube. It may include carbohydrates, proteins, fat, minerals, electrolytes, vitamins, and trace elements for people who cannot eat or absorb enough nutrition from food taken by mouth. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- People of all ages may have a feeding tube, from infants and children to adults. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- People can live well on tube feeding for as long as it is needed. Sometimes, tube feeding is used for a short time, then decreased, or stopped when the person begins to eat enough by mouth. Other people receive tube feeding at home for their whole lives. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Breastmilk, formula (for infants, children or adults), and even blended foods can be delivered through a feeding tube. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Someone on a feeding tube can still feel the sensations of hunger and fullness. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- People with feeding tubes can still be active. Some carry a backpack that contains their feeding pump, so they can receive nutrition while doing the things they enjoy! #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Some people with feeding tubes can eat by mouth. Some cannot. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek

- Tube feeding can improve quality of life by easing symptoms such as malnutrition, dehydration, and discomfort with eating, allowing individuals to focus on their overall well-being. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Some people may use their feeding tube to drain their GI tract or administer medications, rather than feeding through it. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Every person's journey is unique. By validating the experiences of individuals with feeding tubes, we can foster understanding and compassion. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek
- Having a feeding tube can present challenges. Connecting with and learning from others can help smooth the journey. #FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek

There are different organizations dedicated to supporting consumers and clinicians in the tube feeding and #NutritionSupport community. Some of these include:

- [The Oley Foundation](#)
- [American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition \(ASPEN\)](#)
- [Global Enteral Device Supplier Association \(GEDSA\)](#)

Oley has a network of ambassadors all with lived experience navigating the world of nutrition support. These ambassadors volunteer at events, participate in advocacy efforts, and connect with those who are new to this community. Head to oley.org/ambassadorsmain to meet our ambassadors or email support@oley.org to get connected.

Graphics to help support your message:

Download and save the graphics on the next page so you can share these images and facts to your own personal social networks. By using the hashtag **#FeedingTubeAwarenessWeek** on social media platforms we can spread awareness and information about the importance of home enteral nutrition and other forms of nutrition support. Don't forget to tag your favorite feeding tube consumer, care partner, clinician, and organization (@Oley) in your posts.

[Click here to view our downloadable graphics.](#)

They will also be available to share directly from Oley's Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.