POSITION STATEMENT

The Role of the Endoscopy Nurse in the Placement and Removal of Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy Tubes & Replacement Devices

Definition
Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) insertion is a procedure that involves the performance of a Gastroscopy, Percutaneous Puncture and the insertion of a gastrostomy tube which may be used for feeding or venting purposes.

Preamble
Research has shown that an experienced endoscopy Nurse may safely perform percutaneous gastric puncture for the initial placement of a PEG device. Selection and insertion of replacement gastrostomy devices is consistent with the specialty role of Endoscopy Nurses. Endoscopy Nurses who insert or remove prostheses that require an obturator should be aware that these devices constitute a higher level of risk for complications. Therefore it may be appropriate that this be performed under medical supervision.

Position
The Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA) maintains that:

An experienced Endoscopy Nurse may perform the percutaneous gastric puncture under instruction from the Endoscopist. The issue of competency for this role must be ascertained via workplace policy/guidelines.

Removal and replacement of gastrostomy tubes may be performed by an Endoscopy Nurse who has demonstrated competence as determined by workplace policy/guidelines.

Following tube change if there is any doubt regarding the correct position of the tube, confirmation of the correct position must be obtained

It is recommended that the Endoscopy Nurse ensure that follow up education of the patient and/or primary care givers is available.
References


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