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|  | **\*INSERT DATE\*** |  | **Care Coordination Centre**MCH House21 Bailey DriveGillinghamKentME8 0PZ**Direct Line:** 0300 123 3444**Email:** medch.childrennursing@nhs.net |
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Dear Parent/Carer,

**Subject: Enteral Syringes Allocation**

In 2023 Medway Community Healthcare (MCH) updated the guidelines for calculating the number of enteral syringes allocated to children for administering feeds via enteral devices.

Under the new MCH syringe formulary (or ‘list of pharmaceutical products’), disposable (single-use) enteral syringes will no longer be supplied for medication administration purposes. The formulary now provides **reusable** enteral syringes for all patients aged 1year and older. Please refer to the attached guidelines for the proper use of reusable syringes. Patients under the age of 1 year will continue to receive **single-use** enteral syringes.

We understand that these changes may require you to source additional reusable enteral syringes independently. If this is the case, syringes can be purchased online by searching for the syringe name and brand. Alternatively, you may ask your pharmacy to supply your child’s medication with enteral-fit syringes rather than oral syringes.

Please note that going forward, no exceptions will be made to this policy.

We thank you for your understanding.

**Yours sincerely,**

**MCH Children’s Community Nursing Team**

*For information about how we handle your personal information, please visit* [*https://www.medwaycommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/contact-us/privacy-notice*](https://www.medwaycommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/contact-us/privacy-notice)*. If you would like a hard copy of this, please call us using the contact details above.*

**www.medwaycommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk**

**Tube Feeding Syringes**A guide for patients who are tube feeding

Cleaning and Storage of Reusable Syringes

For adults and children – please follow these instructions:

1. Reusable syringes must be cleaned immediately after each use with fresh warm, soapy water (domestic washing up liquid is suitable). The plunger must be pulled back and forward several times until all traces of feed/medicine are removed from inside the tip.
2. Separate the barrel and plunger and clean with warm, soapy water, rinse under cold running water and shake off excess water.
3. Allow the barrel and plunger to air dry or wipe dry with clean, disposable paper towels (not a cloth towel).
4. Store the syringe in a clean, dry container; reassemble when required.

For patients who are under 1 year old – please follow the manufacturer’s instructions:

Note

Do not clean in a dishwasher, freeze, steam clean or microwave the syringes.

Replace the syringe if:

 There is visible damage to the barrel or tip of the syringe.

 The dose markings on the syringe are no longer clear and you require accurate measurements for medications

 The plunger seal is damaged.

 The syringe becomes difficult to use.

Follow manufacturer’s instructions for routine replacement of the syringe.

Generally, a reusable syringe will last for **1 week.**