

	<b>ONE2ONE POLICY</b>			
	<b>Title</b>	Enteral Tube Feeding	<b>Policy No</b>	58
	<b>Indicator</b>	SM1 – High intensity daily personal activities	<b>Review Date</b>	

## 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets out One2One’s principles for providing Enteral Tube Feeding support to the consumers we support. Quality Enteral Tube Feeding care is about ensuring a person’s enteral tube is effectively managed in a safe, consistent, and hygienic manner that promotes a person’s overall health and well-being. All consumers we support deserve:

- appropriate advice
- monitoring
- support and intervention.

Above all, consumers must always be treated with dignity regarding a sensitive and important bodily function.

This policy has been framed around the NDIS Practice Standards and applies to all of One2One’s supports and services.

## 2. POLICY STATEMENT

Consumers should always be involved in decisions that affect them including whether to use a feeding tube. This should be decided together with the consumer’s family/carer/guardian after assessment by a speech pathologist, dietitian, gastroenterologist and/or paediatrician.

If supporting a consumer with an Enteral Feeding Tube, staff should follow the consumers individual care plan for providing Enteral Tube Feeding care. Additionally, staff providing this support will participate in the appropriate training for that consumer.

## 3. POLICY CONTENT

### Staff responsibilities when supporting consumers with tube feeding

- provide best practice for management of consumers receiving enteral feeding
- maintain both knowledge and problem-solving skills and a willingness to provide reassurance to consumers and seek help when needed
- practice good hand hygiene and wear PPE as required
- accurate recording documentation as instructed by consumers individual care plan
- ensure feeding tubes are kept clean and are flushed before and after feeding or medication
- confirm feeding tubes are in the correct place before any feed or medication is given
- feed consumers according to their tube feeding management plan and the enteral tube feeding process
- promote healthy oral hygiene in consumers with no oral intake

- maintain clean work surfaces and proper disposal of equipment and waste
- minimise complications with enteral tube feeding:
  - a. use liquid medications rather than pills
  - b. dilute viscous liquid medications
  - c. discard outdated formula
  - d. follow general principles of tube feeding e.g. elevating head of bed and position consumer comfortably
  - e. flush feeding tubes regularly to maintain tube patency before and after bolus feeds, administration of medications
  - f. assess regularly for complications e.g. aspiration, diarrhoea, constipation
  - g. should a tube become dislodged, alert the appropriate medical professional immediately.

### **Management responsibilities when supporting consumers with tube feeding**

- ensure consumer has documented individual care plans regarding enteral tube feeding which include regular reviews
- ensure staff supporting consumers with tube feeding are trained and confident to provide this support
- ensure consumers are provided information about tubes, feeding, the purpose and possible complications so that they can make decisions based on correct information
- ensure staff education and training covers:
  - a. positioning of the person
  - b. medical administration
  - c. infection control
  - d. flushing of feeding tubes
  - e. care of insertion site
- regularly audit enteral tube feeding management practices
- provide template for recording data including specific medical orders
- provide information about complications of enteral feeding and escalation in an emergency.

### **4. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Infection Control Policy
- Medication Management Policy
- Waste Management Policy

### **5. POLICY REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis. However, if at any time the legislative, policy or funding environment is so altered that the policy is no longer appropriate in its current form, the policy will be reviewed immediately and amended accordingly.

Authorised: Director – One2One