

WSC ADVISORY #2018-018
TUBE FEEDINGS

ACTION REQUIRED

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 24, 2018

This WSC advisory is intended to provide policy clarification regarding the type of provider that can be authorized to provide feedings for individuals who receive nutrition via a tube (G-tube, J-tube, or G-J tube). For individuals who reside in their own home or the family home, the feedings must be administered by a licensed nurse unless there is family or natural support (trained by a nurse or physician) who can administer the feedings.

Personal Supports service providers cannot administer tube feedings because these services are considered medical in nature and not allowed by the Developmental Disabilities Individual Budgeting Waiver Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook. However, the administration of medications is allowed by individuals who meet requirements of Chapter 393.506, Florida Statutes and Rule 65G-7, Florida Administrative Code.

WSCs should complete the following steps to ensure appropriate services in place for individuals who receive nutrition via a tube and live in their own home or family home.

1. Determine if there are family or natural supports who can administer the feedings.
2. If family or natural supports are not available, contact the APD Regional Medical Case Manager (MCM). The Regional MCM can assist in determining how many hours of nursing services are needed by reviewing records and completing an onsite visit with the individual.
3. Assist the individual in accessing nursing through their private insurance or a managed care plan if they have them.
4. If the individual is under 21, assist the individual in accessing the nursing services through Medicaid State Plan.
5. For any age, if the nursing needed is intermittent skilled nursing, assist the individual in accessing the nursing services through Medicaid State Plan, unless an exception is granted by Medicaid.
6. If the individual is age 21 or more, determine if nursing can be accommodated within the current iBudget cost plan. If it cannot be accommodated, the WSC should assist the consumer in accessing nursing services through the iBudget waiver with a Significant Additional Needs (SAN) request. The Medical Case Manager (MCM) Report should be included in the SAN request.

Authorizations of services specific to tube feedings must be made based on the following documentation (which can be found in the MCM report and provider documentation):

- Type of tube;
- Hours/days feedings required;
- Frequency, amount and rate of infusion and type of infusion;
- Type of nursing services required (Private Duty vs Skilled);
- Nursing assessment;
- Plan of Care;
- Physician orders (specific to g-tube feedings) to include:
 - Method of feeding -
 - a. Bolus (is it by syringe push, open syringe by gravity, feeding bag by gravity drip); frequency and duration of each bolus feeding (e.g. every 4 hours over 30 minutes)
 - b. Continuous by pump with rate and frequency (e.g. 75ml/hour every 12 hours daily, or 85ml/hour 7pm to 7am, etc.)
 - c. Combination of Bolus and Continuous (e.g. Bolus during awake time and continuous during hour of sleep)
 - Type of Feeding (formula, nutritional supplement, blenderized)
 - Residual checks: return or discard
 - Venting: how often
 - Tube placement verification: frequency
 - Water flushes include specific instructions: (amount and frequency)
 - Free water as ordered: (amount and frequency);
- Positioning of client during and after feedings;
- Tolerance; signs & symptoms;
- Medications, with instructions (crush, dissolve, oral); and
- Supplements (if ordered).

The MCM Report will include recommendations that include the number of hours and types of services needed. Recommendations must be based on both a record review and a home visit with the individual. The recommendation should be based on the feeding schedule, schedule of supports services, availability of natural supports, natural support and service provider ability to provide the service, wake/sleep schedules, etc.

For individuals enrolled in the CDC+ program, if the parent is providing the Personal Support supports, the parent cannot bill for services when they are administering tube feedings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.