A QUICK GUIDE FOR ACCURATE AND SAFE ENTERAL FEEDING TO REDUCE NEONATAL STRESS

Author: William Nadeau MS, RD, LDN, CNSC

BOTTOM LINE
Nutritional delivery products are designed to administer safe and accurate enteral feedings to neonates, thereby reducing any opportunity for stress from inaccurate feeding to enter the NICU.

HIGHLIGHTS
Clinical Challenge:
Bacterial contamination of enteral feedings causes feeding intolerance and may lead to necrotizing enterocolitis.¹

Solution:
Pediatric feeding systems are designed to reduce the incidence of bacterial contamination of fragile neonatal patients. A.S.P.E.N. guidelines recommend the use of sterile ready-to-feed and liquid concentrate formulas to reduce the likelihood of bacterial contamination.²

Clinical Challenge:
Enteral misconnections in some cases have even resulted in death in infants receiving enteral feeding.³

Solution:
Enteral safety recommendations advise clinicians to use dedicated syringe pumps for enteral feeding.² The syringe pump should only accept enteral syringes with the new EnFit design, which is aimed at reducing the likelihood of enteral misconnections and potentially catastrophic events in the NICU.⁴

Clinical Challenge:
Enteral feeding pumps should be highly accurate and utilize a delivery method for formula that minimizes stress.

Solution:
The syringe pump provides consistent and accurate enteral feedings, thereby reducing the likelihood of over or underfeeding. The accuracy of the syringe pump combined with an EnFit enteral syringe should be within the recommended accuracy of 5% for neonates.³ The syringe pump can also provide continuous enteral feedings, which is associated with lower behavioral stress response, improved GI tolerance and higher growth rates compared to bolus feeding among neonates.⁵,⁶

Infants exclusively formula-fed develop NEC 6-10 times more often than infants exclusively fed breast-milk.⁷

The purpose of the new EnFit connector is to help reduce the risk of enteral feeding tube misconnections, thereby improving patient safety.³
REFERENCES

© 2015 Medtronic. All rights reserved. Medtronic, Medtronic logo and Further, Together are trademarks of Medtronic. All other brands are trademarks of a Medtronic company. 05/2016–15-RE-0005a(1)–[WF # 2347953]