

## **Standards for Insertion of Nasal/oral Feeding Tubes**

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**Authority:**  
Dietitians Regulation, section 6

**Background:**  
The manual insertion of a feeding tube is an invasive procedure. In accordance with the Dietitians Regulation, a Registered Dietitian (RD) may insert a nasal or oral (naso/oro) feeding tube when acting under the delegated authority of a medical practitioner and in accordance with specified standards.

“Delegated authority” from a physician to insert a feeding tube means specific instructions for each client and dietitian.

Practice Guidelines complement this policy and outline how standards for the insertion of naso/oro feeding tubes are met by registrants. Effective January 18, 2006, standards approved by the CDBC Board and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC came into effect.

**Policy:**

1. An employer requiring a Registered Dietitian (RD) employee to meet the competencies stated in the document “Practice Guideline – Standards for the Insertion of Nasal/oral Feeding Tubes” is responsible for creating and maintaining a maximum 6-month certification training program that addresses all required competencies. The employer is responsible for ensuring the RD meets the certification criteria stated in point 2 below. Physician supervision is required throughout training.
2. A registrant must meet the following criteria before beginning certification training for the insertion of naso/oro feeding tubes:
  - registered in good standing with the CDBC, and
  - registered with Restricted Activities (a) and (c), and
  - an employee in the institution applying this policy
  - a minimum of 24 months (within the last 36 months) experience caring for clients who receive liquid nutrition via a feeding tube, and:
    - Certified Nutrition Support Dietitian credentialing<sup>1</sup> or

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<sup>1</sup> Credentialing is by the National Board of Nutrition Support Certification, Inc. recognized by the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

- a demonstrated advanced level of practice as it relates to enteral nutrition (i.e. experience with enteral nutrition policy and procedure development; involvement educating colleagues and other health care professionals).
3. A registrant who completes certification training for the insertion of naso/oro feeding tubes:
    - is supervised throughout training by a registered health care professional who is qualified to insert feeding tubes;
    - meets the knowledge, skills, judgment and attitude competencies included in the Practice Guideline; and
    - inserts successfully, under the qualified health professional's supervision, the following minimum number of naso/oro feeding tube insertions within the stated training time period:
      - Gastric (naso/oro) feeding tube insertion certification: 6 insertions per six-month period or
      - Post-pyloric (naso/oro) feeding tube insertion certification: 10 insertions per six-month period.
  4. At the completion of certification training, a registrant submits to the CDBC a Declaration form signifying competence with the insertion of naso/oro feeding tubes (see the Practice Guideline for the Declarations). The form is signed by the supervising physician.
    - Gastric (naso/oro) certification: Appendix "A"
    - Gastric and/or post-pyloric (naso/oro) certification: Appendix "B".
  5. A registrant renews certification annually by March 31 with registration renewal by:
    - registering with Restricted Activities (a) and (c);
    - ensuring the following standards for renewing certification are obtained:
      - Gastric (naso/oro) feeding tube certification: 6 insertions per six-month or
      - Post-pyloric (naso/oro) feeding tube certification: 10 insertions per six-month period.
    - obtaining signatures on the Appendix "A" or "B" Declaration form verifying the registrant's competence inserting feeding tubes (see Practice Guidelines);
    - submitting the Declaration form to the CDBC; and
    - maintaining documentation confirming the successful insertion of the number of feeding tubes required to renew certification per six-month period; make available to the CDBC on request.
  6. A certified registrant who moves to a new facility with a new employer recertifies in that facility and sends notice of new certification and the new employment position to the CDBC. (Note: certification is not transferable between institutions.)
  7. A registrant who has worked 24 months of the past 60 months beginning April 1 each year in the area of enteral nutrition but has not met the required number of tube insertions for recertification is no longer considered competent and must repeat an employer approved training program.

**Reference:**

CDBC Practice Guidelines– Standards for Insertion of Nasal/oral Feeding Tubes (revised May 2009).