**Nasogastric Tube Competency**

**Competency Statement**

Utilise national and local policy, procedures and guidelines to care for a child with a nasogastric tube safely and correctly.

**Required Knowledge and Skills:**

* Anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal tract
* Awareness of what a nasogastric tube is and indications for a nasogastric tube
* Awareness of aspects of health and safety when using a nasogastric tube:
* Infection control including hand washing and use of appropriate personal protective equipment
* Aspirating the tube prior to each access to confirm position (pH test)
* Personal hygiene including mouth care
* Appropriate tube fixation
* When to change the tube
* Use of enteral syringes and sizes of syringe that may be used
* Emergency procedures and troubleshooting:
* Unable to aspirate
* Tube dislodgment
* Blocked tube
* Gastrointestinal disturbance
* Safe administration of feeds:
* Equipment selection and use
* Feed storage and checks required prior to using feed
* Bolus feeding using gravity feeding set
* Feeding using a feeding pump
* Flushing the tube before and after feeding
* Disposal of waste
* Safe administration of oral medications:
* Equipment selection and use
* Drug specific knowledge (dosage, side effects, contra-indications, drug calculations)
* Flushing the tube before and after administering oral medications
* Disposal of waste
* Changing a nasogastric tube safely:
* Equipment selection and use including checking the integrity of equipment prior to use
* Measurement of the required tube length
* Checking the position of the newly inserted nasogastric tube (pH test)
* Awareness of potential problems (passing new tube into the lungs, vomiting/retching, nasopharyngeal trauma)
* Secure fixation of the new tube