**Gastrostomy Tube/Button Device Competency**

**Competency Statement**

Utilise agreed national and local policy, procedures and guidelines to care for a gastrostomy tube/button device safely and correctly.

**Required knowledge and skills:**

* Anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal tract
* Awareness of what a gastrostomy is and indications for a gastrostomy
* Awareness of maintaining privacy and dignity
* Awareness of aspects of health and safety when using a gastrostomy tube/button device:
	+ Infection control including hand washing and use of appropriate personal protective equipment
	+ Care of the tube/button device (daily, weekly and monthly)
	+ Personal hygiene including mouth care
	+ Recognition and treatment of an unhealthy stoma (inflammation, infection, granulation)
* Emergency procedures and gastrostomy troubleshooting:
* Tube/button device displacement
* Tube/button device dislodgment
* Blocked tubes
* Leaking stoma
* 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 gastrostomy tube/button device safely:
	+ Equipment selection and use including checking the integrity of equipment prior to use
	+ Measurement of the required tube length
	+ Methods of reducing pain and discomfort
	+ Inflating the retention balloon
	+ Checking the position of the newly inserted gastrostomy tube/button device