

CS6.3 Enteral Feeding and Management

Purpose

1. To assist SAVVY employees with the management of safe and acceptable enteral feeding in the community by support workers.

Alignment with Practice Standards

1. Module 1: Rights and Responsibilities
2. Module 2: Provider Governance and Operational Management

Legislative Alignment

1. National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013

Key Responsible Executive

Chief Executive Officer

For More Support

Your People Manager

Policy Statement

1. As a part of any Enteral Feeding support service delivered, SAVVY will:
 - a. Assess initial support needs with the participant also considering their psychological needs and engaging with the participant to access specialist help/advice (if necessary).
 - b. Determine the scope of enteral feeding care that the support worker may attend.
 - c. Develop plans with identified outcomes, the person developing the plan with the participant MUST be trained and deemed competent to develop a support plan.
 - d. Provide written procedures to guide the support worker re the care of a participant with a peg feed in relation to:
 - i. escalation of unexpected issues such as weight gains or losses
 - ii. dehydration
 - iii. allergic reactions
 - iv. poor chest health
 - v. malfunction in the enteral tube (blockage/dislodgement/leak
 - vi. dysreflexia
 - vii. infection control

- e. Identify education needs for support workers. Provide relevant competency-based education and assessment processes for the support worker/s to ensure they are competent to perform the prescribed duties, tasks, interventions and escalation in relation to incidents
- f. Provide access to infection control guidelines/policies and procedures in addition to adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) to assist the support worker in minimising the risk of infection when providing support to the service user who has an enteral feeding tube.
- g. The support plan for care and management of an enteral feed should be clearly documented in the participant's home and only changed following regular review by a medical practitioner or a registered nurse. Related policies and procedures should be made available to support workers.
- h. Monitor, review, evaluate and adapt support plans as required for the service, with the involvement of the participant.
- i. Support worker duties in this domain will be delivered under the direction and supervision of a registered nurse.

Definitions

1. Carer is a person that provides supports to the service user at no cost (generally family or friend).
2. Enteral Feeding means a method of supplying nutrients directly into the gastrointestinal tract.
3. Competent means having been trained and assessed by a registered nurse or enrolled nurse or approved assessor as competent to safely and appropriately perform a specified task.
4. Infection Control means infection prevention and control measures aim to ensure the protection of those who might be vulnerable to acquiring an infection both in the general community and while receiving care due to health problems, in a range of settings. The basic principle of infection prevention and control is hygiene.
5. Medication means any substance which is supplied by a pharmacist or doctor or dispensed by a pharmacist on the prescription of a doctor, or supplied directly by the doctor, and has a label attached to it. The term also includes any over the counter medication or natural therapy products.
6. Participant means the participant, consumer or person receiving the nursing or support.
7. Plan means a support plan. This is a document developed in response to a request for service. It is developed by a registered nurse (or other appropriately, similarly skilled professional) from the SAVVY, prior to the commencement of service delivery. It outlines the expected outcomes of the requested care/services and the tasks, duties and interventions required to meet the care and service needs of the service user (within the parameters of the funding program). The plan guides and directs the individual support worker or registered nurse in their day-to-day delivery of the services.
8. Registered Nurse means a person who has completed the prescribed educational preparation, demonstrated competence for practice, and is registered and licensed with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) as a registered nurse.

9. Support Worker Competency means a support worker who has been trained and assessed as competent by a registered nurse, enrolled nurse or approved assessor to safely and appropriately perform a specified task as a support worker.

Delegations

Roles	Responsibilities
Board of Directors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Endorse and ensure compliance with the CS 6.3 Enteral Feeding and Management Policy and Procedure ● Be familiar with the organisation's legislative requirements relating to the policy
CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage and monitor compliance with this policy ● Support staff competence and compliance with this policy and procedure
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manage and monitor compliance with this policy ● Support staff competence and compliance with this policy and procedure
Staff, volunteers, contractors and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comply with the CS 6.3 Enteral Feeding and Management Policy and Procedure ● Act in accordance with legislation and organisation's systems relating to the policy

Procedures

- i. Service by a Registered Nurse
 - a. A Registered Nurse is required to:
 - i. Change the enteral feeding tube within the specified timeframe, document and report any changes by exception
- ii. Support Workers
 - a. Support workers may NOT:
 - i. Perform any duties that must be attended to by a registered nurse (as outlined above)
 - b. Support Workers may:
 - i. Perform any task on the plan, apart from those that must be performed by a registered nurse (or other suitably assessed person), after having completed competency training and being signed off as competent in the task by the SAVVY.
 - c. Support workers must:
 - i. Follow the support plan as provided by the SAVVY.
 - ii. Report to their supervisor any changes or variations for advice and guidance.

- iii. Escalate any concerns to the registered nurse or participants Doctor immediately.
- iv. Not change or deviate from the plan.
- v. Identify, and report to their supervisor, any gaps in their ability to deliver the required service including difficulties in completing the tasks within the allocated time.

References to other SAVVY policies and external sources

1. CS6.1 High Intensity Care
2. CS3.8 Mealtime Management
3. ACIA Capability Framework
4. ACIA Guideline 028 - Guideline for the Management of Enteral Feeding in the Community
5. [NDIS Practice Standards: Skills descriptors July 2018 V. 1](#)
6. [Agency for Clinical Innovation NSW Gov](#)
7. [NCBI: Nutrition Support for Adults: Oral Nutrition Support, Enteral Tube Feeding and Parenteral Nutrition](#)
8. ACIS Standard 2018
9. [Dieticians Association of Australia](#)
10. [Victoria State Government](#)
11. [Department of Health](#)
12. [The National Health and Medical Research Council](#)

Summary of attachments

1. Nil

Version Control

1. 1 April 2023 - New Policy Creation