



Enteral Nutrition Orders

Orders for enteral nutrition (EN) should be prescribed using a standardized electronic order format to prevent incorrect or incomplete orders.

The elements of the EN prescription should include:

- Enteral formula name and modular component names as appropriate
- Volume per feeding or total volume per day
- The specific method of administration (such as continuous, intermittent gravity, or bolus)
- The feeding route and access device based on distal tip of feeding tube (e.g., gastric feeding via PEG)
- Goal rate. If the enteral order is not yet at goal rate suggested method for advancement to goal rate should be provided in the prescription (initial rate, goal rate, and advancement schedule)
- Total volume per feeding or per day
- Routine water flushes method of administration, flushes route and access device, rate or volume and frequency and total volume per day- as applicable
- Supplementary orders for monitoring and care of EN site and prevent aspiration and infection risk associated with EN- Per facility's policy/procedures.

Suggested Enteral Nutrition Formula Order Template:

Enteral formula name and modular component names, method of administration, feeding route and access, rate or volume and frequency to provide total volume per day

Examples of formula continuous vs bolus orders:

- Jevity 1.2, continuous, pump assisted via PEG @ 45 ml/hr X 22 hours to provide a total of 990 ml/day
- Glucerna 1.5, bolus via PEG, 1 can, 240 ml X 5 per day to provide a total of 1200 ml/day

Suggested Enteral Nutrition Water Flushes Order Template:

Water flushes, method of administration, water flushes route and access device, rate or volume and frequency to provide total volume per day

Examples of continuous flushes vs bolus water flushes orders:

- Water flushes, continuous, pump assisted via PEG @ 30 ml/hr X 22 hours to provide a total of 660 ml/day free water for hydration
- Water flush, bolus, via PEG, 150 ml, 5 times per day after each feed to provide a total of 750 ml/day free water for hydration

Suggested Supplementary Orders Templates:

Additional orders, as well as facility policies, should be in place to monitor and care for those receiving enteral nutrition (EN).

These orders and policies may include:

- Head of bed elevation
- Gastric Residual Volume (GVR) monitoring
- Water flushes with medication
- Monitor signs and symptoms of EN intolerance
- Monitor signs and symptoms of EN site infection
- Documentation of total intake of formula each shift or per day
- Documentation of total intake of water each shift or per day
- EN site care and assessments
- Tubing set and syringe changes
- Weight monitoring

Examples of supplementary orders:

- Head of bed elevated at 30-45 degrees except to allow for ADL care every shift
- Check for gastric residual volume (GVR) every shift or before each bolus (if residual is > 200 ml, notify physician)
- Flush GT with 30 ml water before and after medications; flush with 10 ml of water between medications
- Monitor signs and symptoms of enteral nutrition intolerance every shift

- Monitor GT site for signs and symptoms of infection every shift
- Document total intake of formula every shift
- Document total intake of free water flushes intake every shift
- Cleanse PEG site with NS, pat dry and apply dressing daily and as needed
- Check GT placement prior to feeding and/or medication administration by aspiration of gastric contents
- Change tubing set with each closed system administered
- Change syringe every day on night shift
- Obtain and document weights once a week every Wednesday

Standardized Order Templates:

If a computerized provider order entry option is not available, standardized order templates should be used. See supplement and standardized EN order template examples from [ASPEN Safe Practices for Enteral Nutrition Therapy 2017](#).