

Enteral Feeding Tubes for the Outpatient Setting

The Problem

Over the past few years attempts have been made to develop standardized policies and education materials for patients on feeding tubes in the outpatient setting. There were no written standards. Patients were told different things and often times did not go home with educational material for them to use as a resource. Attempts were made to gather information via email from various areas in the hospital but it was difficult to get many responses.

Aim/Goal

To establish standardized guidelines, policy and procedure, and educational material for outpatients who underwent placement of enteral feeding tubes due to chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy.

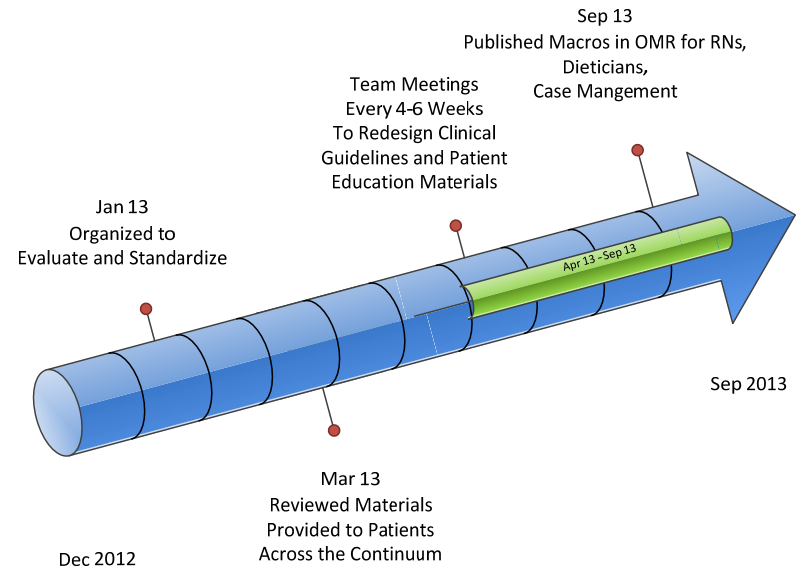
The Team

- JoEllen Ross, RN, OCN, Clinical Advisor in Radiation Oncology
- Holly Dowling, RN, OCN Nurse Manager in Hematology Oncology
- Linda Yanes, RN, OCN Case Management in Hematology/Oncology
- Patricia Samour, RD Director of Nutrition Services
- Cynthia Wagner, MS, CCC-SLP, Clinical Services Manager, Voice, Speech, & Swallowing Service
- Louise Kent, MS, RD Bioscrip – NE Home Therapies
- Donna Apperti, RN Bioscripts – NE Home Therapies
- Barbara Stevens, RN Clinical Liaison – BioScrip – NE Home Therapies

The Interventions

- Gathered current information on the types of feeding tubes used at BIDMC including NG, GT, PEG, and JPEJ.
- Reviewed patient education tools already developed, including BIDMC, Apria, Nourish, Krames, Marshfield Clinic
- Developed the coordination of care with home infusion companies for these patients within the medical center, whether tube placed as an outpatient or inpatient.
- Developed guidelines, policy and procedure for the nurse caring for the patient requiring enteral feeding tubes
- Developed and published educational tools in OMR for nurses/dietitians to utilize for patient.
- Ongoing evaluation of patient education materials

The Results/Progress to Date



Lessons Learned

- Meetings to establish guidelines and educational materials took longer than expected
- Positive experience working with multidisciplinary group
- Dedicated committee members a must to move project forward to completion

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next

Plans in place to meet with staff using tools to see how effective they have been as resources to staff and patients.
Present at new Ambulatory Nursing Leadership Council.