# OSCE checklist for NG tube feeding

An OSCE checklist for NG tube feeding begins with confirming the tube position, then checks the patient, the feed and the equipment before flushing, feeding and recording. Say your checks aloud as you go.

## OSCE checklist for NG tube feeding: steps to practise

1. Check the feeding order: feed type, amount, rate, time, and the patient's name.
2. Wash or rub your hands and gather the feed, giving set or syringe, flush water, and a clean tray.
3. Introduce yourself, confirm identity, explain and gain consent.
4. Sit the patient upright in the position your policy states.
5. Check the tube: external length mark, secure, no signs of displacement, and that the position has been checked by an approved method before this feed. Do not use it if unsure.
6. Check the feed: name, expiry, appearance and how long it has been open.
7. Flush the tube with the volume and fluid in your policy before starting.
8. Start the feed at the prescribed rate, by pump, gravity or syringe as your setting uses.
9. Watch for coughing, discomfort, vomiting or breathlessness. Stop and get help if they occur.
10. Flush again when finished, clamp the tube and keep the patient upright for the time your policy states.
11. Record the feed, volume, flushes, tolerance and any problems. Offer mouth care.

## What candidates commonly forget

- Confirming the tube position, and saying how.
- Keeping the patient upright during and after.
- Flushing before and after, and between medicines.
- Not mixing medicines into the feed.
- Recording the amount and how the patient tolerated it.

# Local policy comes first

This is our own practice checklist. Your college, hospital or country may do some steps differently. Where local policy and this list disagree, follow local policy. Flush volumes, feed rates, how long to stay upright, and who may confirm position differ by hospital and country. Use your local policy. You can practise with an AI patient, and try one station free with no sign-up. See also the general OSCE nursing checklist.

# Common questions

### What do I check before NG feeding?

Confirm the order, the feed, the patient's identity and that the tube position has been checked before this feed. Do not start if you are unsure.

### Why keep the patient upright?

It lowers the risk of the feed passing into the lungs. Follow your policy for how long.

### Can I put medicine in the feed?

No. Give medicines separately and flush between them, as your pharmacist or policy advises.

# Sources

- NICE CG32: Nutrition support for adults
- NHS patient safety alert: placement devices for nasogastric tube insertion do not replace initial position checks

Checked 2026-11-13. Fees and rules change, so confirm them with the regulator before you book.