

<b>Policy 25</b>	<b>Enteral Feeding and Management</b>
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Record of policy development		
Version	Date approved	Date for review
2.0	June 2019 - CEO	June 2021

<p><b>Policy purpose:</b> COASTLINK strives to support a person who is reliant on Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) feeding, safely and in accordance with the individual needs of the client to improve their life and wellbeing.</p> <p><b>Policy:</b> Each client requiring Percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) feeding receives appropriate support relevant and proportionate to their individual needs. Risk is managed appropriately whilst ensuring all services are delivered.</p>	
<b>Relevant Standards</b>	
<b>NSW Disability Service Standards:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rights</li> <li>2. Participation &amp; inclusion</li> <li>3. Individual outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Service Access</li> <li>5. Service Management</li> </ul>
<b>NDIS Practice Standards:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>2. Provision of Supports</li> <li>3. Support Provision Environment</li> <li>4. High Intensity Daily Personal Activities</li> <li>5. Specialist Behaviour Support</li> <li>6. Implementing Behaviour Support Plans</li> <li>7. Early Childhood Supports</li> </ul>	
<b>Aged Care Quality Standards</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consumer dignity and choice</li> <li>2. Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers</li> <li>3. Personal care and clinical care</li> <li>4. Services and supports for daily living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Organisation's service environment</li> <li>6. Feedback and complaints</li> <li>7. Human resources</li> <li>8. Organisational governance</li> </ul>

<b>Related Legislation &amp; References</b>
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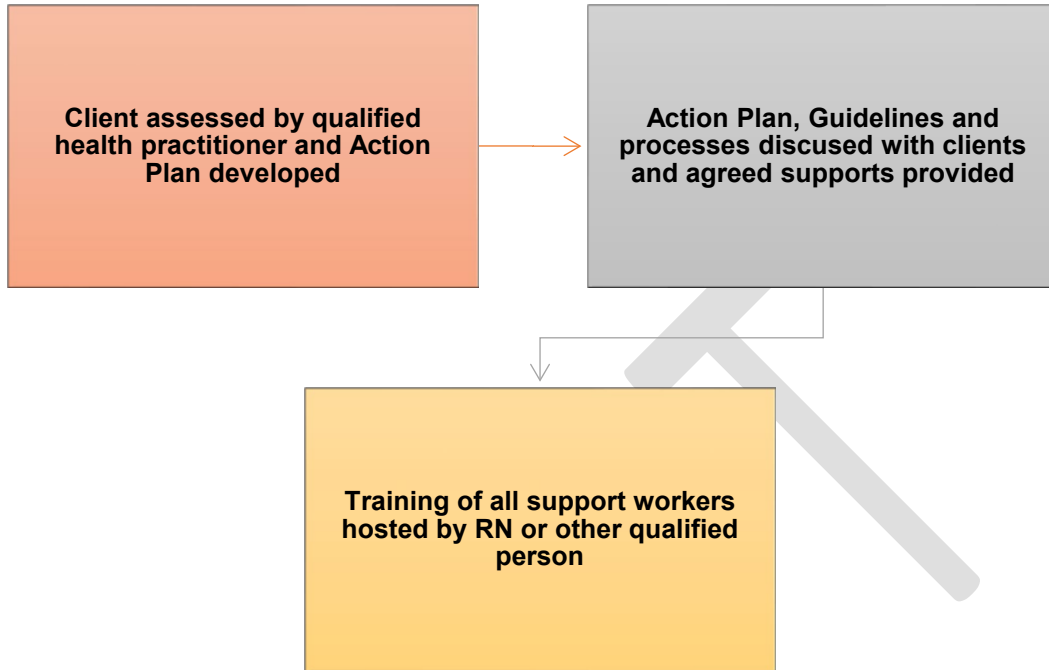
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Provider Registration and Practice Standards\) Rules 2018](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme \(Complaints Management and Resolution\) Rules 2018](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013](#)
- [National Disability Insurance Scheme Code of Conduct](#)
- [NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission](#)
- [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988](#)
- [Commonwealth Home Support Programme Guidelines](#)
- [Aged Care Act 1997 \(Cth\), Schedule 2 User Rights Principles 2014. Charter of Rights and Responsibilities – Home Care](#)
- [Better Practice Guide to Complaints Handling in Aged Care Services \(2013\)](#)
- [Children and Young Persons \(Care and Protection\) Act 1998](#)
- [Aged Care Quality & Safety Commission](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Medication Management in Community 2006 \(Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council\)](#)

<b>Related Procedures</b>	
<b>Documents/Forms</b>	

<b>Responsibilities and delegations</b>	
<b>This policy applies to:</b> Clients Employees/volunteers	<b>It will be distributed through:</b> Client handbook, Coastlink website, Coastlink brochures Employee/volunteer handbook, shared drive
<b>Policy approval</b>	CEO

<b>Definitions</b>
Refer to Definitions list at front of Coastlink Policy and Procedure Manual

**ENTERAL FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW**



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## ENTERAL FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE

### 25.1 Procedures

Coastlink support workers who are appropriately trained and approved as being competent by Coastlink may support a client through enteral feeding and management of their plan. Coastlink will ensure:

- Coastlink has a written mealtime preparation and delivery plan developed and overseen by a health practitioner (may include more than one health practitioner e.g. dietician, speech therapist, occupational therapist).
- Support workers are trained specifically in the use of the individual's plan.
- Support workers follow personal hygiene and infection control procedures, as per the guidelines below.
- Confirm the need and receive consent for enteral feeding, introduce food via tube according to the individual's plan.
- Monitor rate and flow of feeding and take appropriate action to adjust if required.
- Keep stoma area clean and monitor and report signs of infection.
- Check that the tube is correctly positioned, monitor equipment operation.
- Follow procedures to respond to malfunction e.g. blockages, follow procedures to document a request to review mealtime plan where required; liaise with health practitioners to explain/demonstrate requirements (e.g. hospital staff), recognise and respond to symptoms that could require health intervention e.g. reflux, unexpected weight gain or loss, dehydration, allergic reaction, poor chest health – in line with client's profile and care plans.

### 25.2 Replacement of Nasogastric Tubes

Coastlink support staff are not to replace nasogastric tubes. Replacement of Nasogastric (NG) tubes is high risk and can only be done by a health practitioner. In some cases, support workers may respond when PEG tubes become dislodged. This is only appropriate when the balloon device tube is in position and stable (after the initial tube has been replaced by balloon device), and there is active oversight by a health practitioner.

### 25.3 Appropriate Training

Coastlink will ensure all support workers are appropriately trained and assessed as being competent prior to supporting clients with enteral feeding. Coastlink will ensure that all workers deployed to support enteral feeding have knowledge of:

- basic anatomy of the digestive system
- equipment components, function, cleaning and maintenance procedures
- stoma care requirements and procedures
- awareness of risks associated with departing from plan and ability to explain these risks to others including carers.

## 22.1 Assessment of Client Requirements

Coastlink will ensure that all workers deployed to provide high intensity support has knowledge of:

- The impact of associated health conditions and complications that interact with enteral feeding e.g. related cardiac or respiratory disorders
- very complex physical disability
- severe epilepsy
- symptoms that indicate the need for intervention e.g. poor chest health, dehydration, reflux
- factors that may require immediate adjustment e.g. rate, flow and quantity of food.

When working with people who have very complex physical disability, workers also need training in positioning and turning to maintain airway safety and avoid choking risk and in pressure care.

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