

Nasal Feeding Tube Placement

What is a nasal feeding tube?

A **nasal feeding tube** is a soft, flexible tube passed through the nose and guided into the stomach or small bowel (small intestine).

Why is it needed?

The nasal feeding tube is used to feed people who cannot get enough nutrition through their mouth. It is often placed during a serious condition. The tube may also be used to provide necessary medicines that cannot be taken by mouth.

How is it inserted?

A specially trained healthcare provider inserts the nasal feeding tube at the bedside. They use a device to position it correctly.

Is the procedure painful?

There can be some discomfort when the tube is guided down through the nose. A numbing medicine will be used to lessen the discomfort.

When and how will the feeding tube be removed?

The feeding tube will be removed when a patient no longer needs the treatment that the tube is delivering. It's usually a painless procedure.

Talking with the doctor about nasal feeding tube placement

The most common possible benefits, risks, and complications are listed below. Other benefits and risks may apply in other unique medical situations.

Possible benefits	Risks and possible complications	Alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better nutrition Delivery of necessary medicines 	Incorrect placement of the feeding tube (rare).	As a feeding tube is placed in very sick patients, there usually are no alternatives.



