



Safety Alert 006/2016

(updated, July 2016)

**Risk Management of Percutaneous
Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) feeding**

1. What is the risk?

Residents are at risk of death or injury from inappropriate management of PEG feeding.

2. Recent incidents

HIQA has been made aware of a number of incidents where the wellbeing of residents has been put at risk because of the poor management of PEG feeding. In one recent incident, the resident became unwell and required hospitalisation. Tragically, the resident subsequently died.

3. Key responses

As a matter of urgency, providers should take a number of safety precautions in relation to managing PEG feeding in designated centres:

- Ensure staff are trained and confident in the administration of PEG feeding and that staff can recognise and know how to appropriately respond to actual and potential risks associated with this type of feeding.
- Ensure that the centre has an up-to-date, evidenced based policy and procedure providing clear guidance for all categories of staff on the safe management of PEG feeding.
- Ensure there is an unequivocal care pathway for each resident who requires this intervention, to include pre assessment arrangements.
- Ensure the governance arrangements include robust quality assurance arrangements, including arrangements for review of the policy and procedure, and arrangements to ensure all staff understand and adhere to the PEG feeding policy and procedure.
- Ensure that staff maintain an accurate and timely record of the residents' prescribed PEG feeding regime.
- Ensure that any actual or potential accident, incident or near miss is appropriately dealt with, the event accurately recorded in a timely manner in the centre's accident/incident register and is reviewed by the person in

charge. Where appropriate, an action plan to prevent any reoccurrence must be put in place with arrangements to ensure that learning and, if appropriate, corrective actions from the incident have been shared and implemented.

- Ensure that all PEG feeding equipment is serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and that staff are confident in the use of this equipment.
- Ensure protocols are in place to include the recording of scheduled equipment checks, cleaning, storage and maintenance

4. Relevant standards and regulations

Persons with Disabilities:

- Regulation 5 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013* sets out the requirements for assessment and care planning that must be in place for each resident in designated centres.
- Regulation 6 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to healthcare in designated centres.
- Regulation 16 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to training and development of staff in designated centres.
- Regulation 26 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to risk management in designated centres.
- Regulation 27 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to infection control in designated centres.
- Theme 4: Health and Development. **National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities (2013)**
- Theme 7: Responsive Workforce. **National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities (2013)**

Older Persons:

- Regulation 5 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* sets out the requirements for assessment and care planning that must be in place for each resident in designated centres.
- Regulation 6 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to healthcare in designated centres.
- Regulation 16 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to training and development of staff in designated centres.

- Regulation 26 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to risk management in designated centres.
- Regulation 27 of *the Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* sets out what is required in relation to infection control in designated centres.
- Theme 2, Effective Services, The National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland, Revised (2015)
- Theme 3, Safe Services, The National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland, Revised (2015)
- Theme 4, Health and Wellbeing, The National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland, Revised (2015)
- Theme 5, Leadership, Governance and Management, The National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland, Revised (2015)
- Theme 7 Responsive Workforce, The National Quality Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland, Revised (2015)

Relevant publications

- HSE Dublin North East Community Infection Prevention & Control Manual (November 2011)
- HIQA National Standards for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections (20 May 2009)
- HSE Guidelines for hand hygiene in Irish healthcare settings (Update of 2005 guidelines January 2015)