

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Elderly Care Service Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Clinical Care

Title	Replace Nasogastric Tube
Code	106067L4
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in elderly care service industry who provide clinical care to elderlies. This competency involves the ability of critical analysis and assessment. Employees are required to change nasogastric tubes, adopt suitable care plans and monitor any possible complications according to the procedures and guidelines of the institution regarding changing nasogastric tube, reasons for elderlies to change nasogastric tubes and the assessed conditions of their digestive systems.
Level	4
Credit	6 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Knowledge related to changing nasogastric tube</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand relevant procedures and guidelines of the institution regarding changing nasogastric tube</li> <li>• Understand the anatomy of digestive system</li> <li>• Understand complications related to changing nasogastric tube and respective handling methods</li> <li>• Understand common reasons for changing nasogastric tube, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ nasogastric tube used for prolonged period beyond the lifespan recommended by manufacturers</li> <li>○ Need for a thicker nasogastric tube for drainage</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understand the types and usage of nasogastric tubes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Different materials, for example, rubber and silicone</li> <li>○ Different diameters, for example, measurement in FR</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understand tools for changing nasogastric tube, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Water-soluble lubricants</li> <li>○ pH testing paper</li> <li>○ Stethoscope</li> </ul> </li> <li>• understand the correct methods to change nasogastric tube and the relevant care procedures</li> <li>• Understand the methods to verify the position of the nasogastric tube</li> <li>• Understand the methods to monitor any complications caused by changing nasogastric tube</li> <li>• Understand the correct methods to document the procedures of changing nasogastric tube</li> </ul> <p>2. Change nasogastric tube</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess elderlies' nasopharynx and oesophagus conditions; select suitable nasogastric tubes as well as other related tools according to their reasons for changing nasogastric tubes</li> <li>• Explain the procedures to elderlies and seek their cooperation</li> <li>• Protect the privacy of elderlies and offer comfort</li> <li>• Verify elderlies' identities, the types of nasogastric tubes and date of use</li> <li>• Change nasogastric tubes correctly by following the procedures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take standard precautions</li> <li>○ Choose a suitable nostril for insertion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clean the nostril and mouth cavity before changing the nasogastric tube</li> <li>○ Measure the length of the nasogastric tube inserted</li> <li>○ Help elderlies or guide them to stay in correct posture</li> <li>○ Give elderlies correct instruction to swallow so as to facilitate tube insertion</li> <li>○ Choose a suitable nostril for insertion</li> <li>○ Help elderlies or guide them to stay in correct posture</li> <li>○ Affix the nasogastric tube. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Confirm the nasogastric tube has been inserted to a correct position based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ pH value of extracted fluid for examination</li> <li>○ If no stomach content or fluid with a pH value smaller than 5.5 is extracted, conduct further assessments such as auscultation with a stethoscope. In case of doubt, refer the case to healthcare professionals for examination.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● Take care measures correctly after changing nasogastric tube</li> <li>● Monitor elderlies' conditions after changing nasogastric tube and take note of any possible complications, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Breathing difficulty</li> <li>○ Displacement of the nasogastric tube</li> <li>○ Bleeding of the nasal mucous membrane or skin abrasion</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Educate elderlies not to remove the nasogastric tube by themselves</li> <li>● Document properly the procedures of changing nasogastric tube, date of changing, nasogastric tubes used, reactions of elderlies and related equipment used</li> </ul> <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perform the procedures to change nasogastric tube in accordance with evidence-based guidelines</li> </ul>
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirements of this Unit of Competency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to assess elderlies' conditions of their digestive system; select suitable tools and nasogastric tubes according to relevant procedures and guidelines of the institution and elderlies' reasons for changing nasogastric tube;</li> <li>● Ability to perform procedures correctly to change nasogastric tube; and</li> <li>● Ability to monitor elderlies' conditions after changing the nasogastric tube; handle any possible complications and document the changing procedures and related information.</li> </ul>
Remark	<p>This Unit of Competency is currently conducted by enrolled or registered nurses.</p>