

danuTips for Enteral Care



Ensuring Hygiene and Infection Control in the Care of Gastrostomy Buttons

Low profile balloon style replacement gastrostomy tubes, such as the danuButton®, are safe and convenient for long-term enteral nutrition. **Proper hygiene and infection control** are essential to prevent complications such as stoma site infections.

These danuTips focus on **evidence-based practices** for hygienic care of gastrostomy buttons.

Hand Hygiene – The Cornerstone of Preventing Contamination



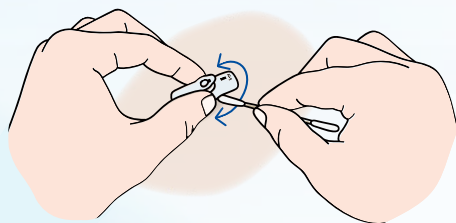
Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water before and after touching the button or the skin around the stoma, as well as before and after feeding or administering medication.

- ✓ If hands are not visibly soiled, an alcohol-based hand rub can be used as an effective alternative to soap and water.
- ✓ In clinical/hospital settings, follow institutional infection prevention policies for alcohol-based hand disinfection. These typically include hand disinfection for at least 30 seconds and wearing disposable gloves.



Daily Stoma Care – Keeping the Stoma Site Infection-Free

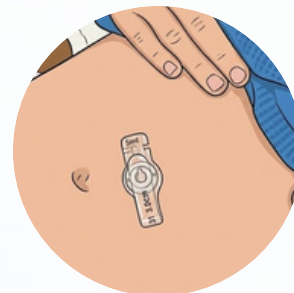
- ✓ **Wash gently** with warm water and mild soap in small circles, starting at the stoma and moving outward.
- ✓ **Avoid using alcohol** as it is too harsh for the tender stoma tissue. Avoid the use of creams, ointments, and powders around the stoma unless advised by your healthcare professional.
- ✓ Keep the skin around the stoma **clean and dry**, using a soft cloth, gauze pad or cotton swab.



- ✓ Replacement buttons usually do not require a dressing. If used, change it when wet or soiled. **NEVER** leave a wet dressing on the skin; moisture promotes bacterial or yeast overgrowth and may cause skin irritation and infection.
- ✓ Showering and bathing are generally safe for mature stoma sites. Daily cleaning with mild soap and water aligns with normal showering practice. After showering, pat dry the site thoroughly and inspect for any signs of irritation or infection.

Check how your button fits:

Each day, check that your button



- ✓ **sits snugly** against the skin without pressing too tightly against or pulling away from the stoma.
- ✓ **can move slightly** in and out, about the width of a fingertip, and does not feel stuck or difficult to rotate.

Monitoring for Signs of Infection

Inspect your stoma site and button every day. Early action and intervention prevent long term complications, so report any concerns to your healthcare professional as soon as possible.

What to look for:

Inspect the button and stoma site for changes in the way it fits, feels, or appears. **Contact your healthcare professional** if you notice any of the following:

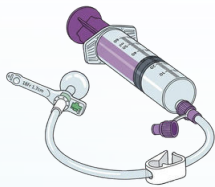
- ✓ Redness, swelling, or increased pain around the stoma site
- ✓ Foul-smelling or yellow-green discharge
- ✓ Bumpy, raised tissue forming around the tube and stoma site (granulation tissue)
- ✓ Leakage of stomach contents or formula from the stoma site
- ✓ Fever



Keeping your Button, Feeding Supplies and Formula Clean and Safe

Flushing Your Button

Flush your button before and after each feeding and medication.



- ✓ Use **drinking water** in the amounts directed by your healthcare provider for each flush.
- ✓ **Regular flushing** helps keep the tube clean on the inside, helps prevent blockages or tube clogs, while also providing an important source of hydration.

Caring for your Feeding Supplies:

- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after handling any feeding equipment or formula.
- ✓ **For reusable supplies**, such as extension sets or syringes, wash with warm water and rinse with drinking water.
- ✓ Rinse well after each use and allow to air dry completely. **NEVER** use a dishwasher to clean an extension set.
- ✓ Use clean working surfaces and ensure all equipment is **hygienically stored** and clean.



Use, clean and replace reusable supplies according to manufacturers' or your healthcare provider's instructions. danumed® Extension Sets can be used up to 14 days at maximum.

Handling and Storing Formula:

- ✓ Store unopened liquid formula in a cool or room temperature and dry location, out of direct sunlight.
- ✓ Once opened or mixed, **refrigerate unused formula** and **use within 24 hours**. Discard any remaining formula after this time.
- ✓ At home, put no more than 4 hours of reconstituted powdered formula or 12 hours of ready-to-feed formula in a feeding bag at one time.
- ✓ When using a pump or gravity feeding set, do not add formula to formula that is already in the bag. Once the formula has been completely infused, rinse with warm water and refill instead.



Check the date on all formula before use. Do not use formula after the expiration date.

Disclaimer: This information is not a substitute for professional medical care. In case of problems, complications or questions, always contact your medical professional!

References:

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 Illustrations created with AI assistance

