

Feeding Equipment in Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Procedure Responsibilities and Authorisation

Department Responsible for Procedure	NICU
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Target Audience	Nurses
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Procedure Review History

Version	Updated by	Date Updated	Summary of Changes
1	Joyce Mok	June 2010	Old format of controlled document
2	Robyn Hills	Feb 2014	3-yearly update
3	Robyn Hills	Feb 2017	3-yearly update
4	Robyn Hills	Sept 2020	3-yearly review

Feeding Equipment in Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

1 Overview

1.1 Purpose

To outline the procedure to ensure all non-disposable feeding equipment, e.g. Habermann bottle and teat, pigeon bottle and teat, pacifiers, bottle and teat, and feeding cup, is clean and safe for use

1.2 Scope

Waikato District Health Board staff working in NICU

1.3 Patient / client group

Babies and parents/caregivers in NICU

2 Clinical Management

2.1 Competency required

- Registered nurses
- Enrolled nurses who are under the direction and delegation of a registered nurse

2.2 Equipment

- Plastic container, e.g. ice-cream container
- Milton™ tablet
- Cold water
- Detergent and warm water
- Feeding equipment for individual infant
- Bottle brush for individual infant

NB All equipment designated by manufacturer to be **single use** must not be recycled.

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2.3 Procedure

1. Container for Milton™

- A container e.g. ice-cream container, will be issued to those infants who use specific feeding equipment.
- A Milton™ solution is added, the strength as per manufacturer's instruction

2. Renew Milton™ solution

The night nurses perform the following duties:

- Every day the Milton™ container is emptied, cleaned thoroughly with water and detergent, and rinsed.
- The Milton™ solution is renewed daily as per manufacturer's instructions to maintain solution's ability to disinfect equipment.
- Record date Milton™ changed on outside of container.

3. Cleaning feeding equipment

After each use, non-disposable feeding equipment must be cleaned before soaking:

- Rinse each item thoroughly under fast-flowing water.
- Thoroughly clean the equipment e.g. bottle/teat, by brushing with detergent and water.
- Rinse thoroughly again.
- Soak the equipment in the infant's Milton™ container.
- All items must be completely immersed in the Milton™ solution with all air bubbles expelled.
- The bottle brush is to be retained for use by the individual infant to reduce cross-infection.
- Do not rinse or wipe the feeding equipment prior to feed preparation.

4. Preparing feed

- At feed time perform hand hygiene, wear gloves and measure feed accurately at the bedside with a syringe.
- All breast milk must be checked at the bedside by two staff members or one staff member and the parent/caregiver prior to administration.
- Once milk is checked at the bedside it must not leave the bedside.

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5. Warming feed in bottle

- Warm the milk in the bottle to normal body temperature (37°C) by using a plastic container labelled with patient's label and filled with warm water.

6. Warming feed in syringe

- Put a stopper on the end of syringe.
- Place the syringe into a clean plastic bag prior to submerging in warm water to avoid water contamination around the luer of the syringe. On removal check there is no water contamination to the syringe.
- Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene
- Don clean pair of gloves, the nurse proceeds to tube/bottle feed the infant as per NICU nursing procedures: [Enteral Feeding in Newborn Intensive Care Unit \(NICU\) \(4945\)](#) and [Labelling, handling, storage, transport and administration of human milk \(2771\)](#)

2.4 After care

- Syringes are disposable after each use.
- Non-disposable items are cleaned and disinfected following step 3.
- When infant is discharged, the Milton™ container is discarded.

2.5 Potential complications

- Contamination of equipment

3 Audit

3.1 Indicators

Observational audit at one point in time.

- Each baby's container for Milton displays a date that documents the currency of the solution – daily change.
- Each baby has their own bottle brush for cleaning.
- All items in the Milton are fully submerged.

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4 Evidence base

4.1 Bibliography

- Ministry of Health (2017). *Feeding Your Baby Infant Formula*. Retrieved on June 11, 2020 from <https://www.healthed.govt.nz/resource/feeding-your-baby-infant-formula>

4.2 Associated Waikato DHB Documents

- Waikato DHB NICU Nursing Procedure - [Enteral Feeding in Newborn Intensive Care Unit \(NICU\)](#) (4945)
- Waikato DHB NICU Nursing Procedure - [Labelling, handling, storage, transport and administration of human milk](#) (2771)
- Waikato DHB Policy: [Artificial milk/formula feeding for infants](#) (1901)
- Lippincott Procedures: [Cleaning and Disinfection Processes](#) (2019)

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