Guidance Notes NHSGGC Community HSCP’s District Nursing Service: (Out of Hours District Nursing Naso-gastric Tube Replacement)

Within all NHSGGC Community Health and Social care Partnerships areas the guidance below applies:

In 2011 the National Patient Safety agency stated that, “The placement of naso-gastric tubes should not occur at times when there is insufficient support available to accurately confirm placement (insufficient support may not be available at night or in an Out of Hours period (NPSA 2011, PSA 002).

They identify the procedure as HIGH RISK.” As a response to the National Patient Safety Alert NPSA/2011/ PSA002, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde does not recommend the insertion of naso-gastric tubes as stated below: “The insertion of naso-gastric tubes for feeding out with standard working hours of 9am – 5pm, and the radiological assessment of position of these tubes out of hours should be by exception only.

“Healthcare Improvement Scotland (2015) Complex Nutritional Care Standards, Standard 3 Enteral Tube Feeding supports this by recommending a locally agreed enteral tube feeding protocol is in place which takes into account alerts and guidance from the relevant national patient safety agency and is reviewed at least annually.

For health care professionals within NHSGGC Community Health and Social Care Partnership areas including Out of Hours periods (OOH):

Firstly, consult the documented plan of nutritional care, Healthcare Improvement Scotland (2015) Complex Nutritional Care Standard, Standard 2 – Assessment:

Consult the documented plan of nutritional care:

a) Including how to access information, advice and support (including out of hours period)

b) Include relevant names and contacts of relevant health and social care professionals

c) Details of the current feeding regimen

After consulting the current nutritional care plan, if the patient is unable to meet their nutritional requirements and or requires essential medications e.g., Parkinson’s, epilepsy, diabetic or acute pain medication, consider the following points:

• if a patient is receiving a continuous naso-gastric feed overnight or bolus feed and is unable to maintain their own adequate nutritional intake from food, oral nutritional supplements or who cannot be deemed to eat, or drink safely thus remains (Nil by mouth) e.g., a diabetic patient. If the patient requires essential medications for their condition through their naso-gastric tube this will be considered an emergency in an Out of Hours period.

• Contact NHS24 GP Professional line: telephone number - 0141 616 6222 or further verbal advice only and ambulance if necessary. Otherwise, the reinsertion of the fine bore nasogastric tube or confirmation of position of naso-gastric tube should wait until daytime working hours (9am until 5pm).

• The next working day refer client back to patient’s own GP / community District Nurse for future nutritional care planning, if possible, attempt to insert a new fine bore naso-gastric tube only if competent to do so or request an x ray as per NHSGGC Community HSCP community procedure for placement and community decision tree guidance (Page 14). If you require any further assistance, seek further advice from the Community NHSGGC HSCP Home Enteral Feeding team based at Pollock Health Centre, Glasgow telephone number 0141 531 6858.