Surgical Jejunostomy Feeding Tube
Information for Patients and Carers

The jejunostomy feeding tube
A feeding jejunostomy tube will be placed during surgery. The tube will be placed directly into your jejunum (small bowel) to allow you to receive water, prescribed feed and sometimes medicines.

How long will I need to use the jejunostomy tube for?
If you are feeding through the tube you will be closely monitored by the dietitian. The dietitian will advise if feeding can be stopped. If the jejunostomy tube is not being used for feeding, it should remain in place for a minimum of 4-6 weeks before being removed. Surgical jejunostomy tubes should be removed by a member of your healthcare team.

Jejunostomy care
- Hands should be washed, rinsed and dried before handling feed, feeding equipment, or the jejunostomy site to reduce the risk of infection.
- For the first two weeks, do not have a bath. Showers are permitted from 24 hours after the procedure. Wash the area of skin around the tube first before moving on to other parts of the body.
- **Do not remove the stitches.** Clean around the stitches with water and dry thoroughly. Check the area for redness, swelling or bleeding. If you have any concerns or if your stitches become loose or come out, contact your GP, district nurse or hospital team.
- Avoid the use of creams, lotions or powders at the jejunostomy site, unless advised to do so by your nurse or doctor.
Jejunostomy care (cont'd)

- Change dressings twice-weekly, or more frequently if there is any leakage. Some leakage is common and quite normal. Suitable dressings can be provided by your district nurse.
- To prevent tube blockage, it is important to flush the tube with water regularly, 6-hourly, throughout the day if there is a break from feeding.

Medicines

If you have been advised to take medicines through the tube:

- These should be in liquid form where possible.
- If you have any concerns about your medicines, check with your pharmacist.

Feeding

- If you have been advised to continue feeding at home the dietitian will discuss and provide a feeding regimen for you.
- **Never** put anything other than prescribed feed, medicines or water down your jejunostomy tube.
- The dietitian will continue to monitor your progress and give advice about eating.

Discharge supplies

On discharge from hospital you will be given a supply of all the necessary feed and equipment. e.g. dressings, syringes.

Note: The information in this leaflet is intended only as a general guide. It should not replace the advice of your doctor or health care team.