

Introduction

August 2021

In our clinical setting, we serve many individuals of all ages requiring enteral feeding support. The increasing occurrence of feeding tube clogs caused us to investigate alternative methods and technologies to address this problem. We discovered the TubeClear System (TubeClear), a mechanical feeding tube clearing technology manufactured by Actuated Medical, Inc. (Bellefonte, PA, USA). Our inquiry into TubeClear resulted in the opportunity to evaluate TubeClear prophylactic use (i.e., a clog prevention strategy) as well as TubeClear interventional use (i.e., when clogs occurred) in our clinical setting.

Cost Savings

In cases of recurrent clogging and feeding tube types that require interventional radiology for replacement, TubeClear prophylactic use has proven to be cost effective. The residents we serve are mostly ventilator dependent. Therefore, they require ambulance transport when interventional radiology is needed for feeding tube replacement. That transportation cost alone is ~ \$1,300. We often provide a respiratory therapist to accompany a resident on the transport and during the procedure for feeding tube replacement, costing ~\$250. The placement procedure has an average cost of \$2,670, including professional fees. Our experience, during the evaluation, resulted in prevention of at least two GJ tube replacements saving our facility over \$8000 in one month.

Key Takeaways

- + Acquiring, training and applying TubeClear for feeding tube de-clogging is simple and well within the skill capabilities of Licensed Nurses.
- + TubeClear is a proven technology that is effective in clearing enteral feeding tube clogs.
- + TubeClear has proven to be a cost effective technology to apply in a long-term care environment.
- + TubeClear provides greater resident comfort and confidence in a provider's care service.

Key Advantages

- + Saves Nursing Time.
- + Reduces Cost.
- + Clears Medication Clogs
- + Operates in GJ, NE, G & J Tubes
- + Works at the Patient's Bedside
- + Uses Active Mechanical Motion to Clear Tubes
- + Reduces risk associated with invasive EAD replacement.
- + Billing codes B4034, B4035, and B4036 applicable.

Read the Full Paper:







FDA Clearance #: K200646, K172556, K163092, K131052, K123659, K121571





