Patient meets criteria to initiate feeding tube weaning
Complete “Ready to Wean” checklist in “Nutrition Data Tracker” flowsheets

Wean tube feeding volume by 20% from baseline

Multidisciplinary follow-up in 3-7 days to allow development of hunger/thirst

Has the patient had > 10% weight loss since initiation of pathway?

Yes

Manage off pathway

No

Has the patient had any RED FLAGS*?

Yes

Additional evaluation by medical team and manage off pathway

No
(Repeat 4-5 times or until on full oral feeds)

Does patient have any RED FLAGS*?

Yes

Additional evaluation by medical team and manage off pathway

No

Once on full oral feeds, follow up for weight check and appointment with dietitian in 1 month

*RED FLAGS during the wean:
*should trigger additional evaluation by the medical team*
- Weight gain < 25% of expected
- Clinical signs of dehydration
- New vomiting/diarrhea or a significant decrease in wet diapers
- Coughing/choking/gagging with feeds or increased congestion not related to a viral infection
- Unusual fatigue or lethargy

Helpful Hints
- Make sure team members (including caregivers) are comfortable with the pre-work on positive feeding associations and behavioral interventions. Preparation is the key to success!
- A structured decrease in tube feedings should increase interest in oral intake (takes 4 or 5 steps).
- It may take several weeks to regain a positive growth trajectory*. We typically monitor for 1 month post last tube use to document weight gain
  - Patients should be considered to have graduated at 1 month post last tube feed IF they are demonstrating weight gain
- Make a plan ahead of time for how and when to transition medications to PO

Disclaimer: Pathways are intended as a guide for practitioners and do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment nor serve as a standard of medical care. These pathways should be adapted by medical providers, when indicated, based on their professional judgement and taking into account individual patient and family circumstances.

ChildrensNebraska.org/Pathways

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