1.24 Preparation of Enteral Feedings (Adult and Pediatric)

**Purpose**
To prevent the ingestion of contaminated liquid feedings that could result in illness either through infection or intoxication.

**Audience**
All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, outpatient surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students involved in enteral feedings.

**Physical Facility**
- All enteral feedings must be prepared in a specific location that encourages the use of aseptic technique and ensures the delivery of safe enteral feedings.
- A handwashing facility must be in close proximity to the enteral feeding preparation area. Hands must be washed or an alcohol hand rub applied to the hands prior to preparing formula.

**Preparation and Handling Procedure**
- Gather supplies.
- Check manufacturer’s expiration date before using.
- Wash hands or apply an alcohol hand rub to the hands and wear gloves.
- Wash the top of the can with soap and water before preparing formula.
- Cover open cans securely with a clean cover before refrigerating.
- Use aseptic no-touch technique when measuring and placing feeding tube.
- Use sterile water to add to liquid concentrate formula or to reconstitute powder formula.
- All equipment and utensils (i.e., measuring spoons, can openers) used in the preparation of formula must be properly cleaned with soap and water between batches.
- Medications should not be added during preparation of formula. Medications may be added at the bedside or at feeding time.
- Formula bags must be labeled with:
  - Patient name
  - Formula name and additives
  - Expiration date and time
- Clean blender thoroughly with dish washing soap (blender blade and “O” ring should be removed from base and cleaned separately) and allow to completely dry before storage.

**Storage of Formula/Feedings**
- Containers should be stored in a cool dry area when not in use.
- Once opened, canned, ready-to-feed formula must be used immediately and not stored at the bedside or in the refrigerator.
- Reconstituted or diluted formula should be used immediately, but any unused portion may be refrigerated for 24 hours.
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<th>Hang Time of Feeding</th>
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<td>• Canned ready to use formula and reconstituted formula must be delivered to the patient within 4 hours of preparation.</td>
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<td>• Refillable sets (bag and tubing) must be replaced at 24 hours.</td>
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