

## GASTRIC TUBES

- Neonates: size 5-8 French
- Young Children (10-14kg): size 8-10 French
- Child (15-22kg): size 10-14 French
- Older Child (23kg to adult): size 14-18 French

### **Gastric tube procedure:**

- universal precautions
- assemble equipment (has suction available)
- explain procedure
- assess for nasal septum deviation and nare patency
- immobilize the child; preferably in high Fowlers position with head slightly flexed
- lubricate tip of tube with sterile, water-soluble lubricant and slide it into the nostril along the base of the nose or following the natural curve of the tongue
- advance the tube slowly
- try to have child assist with swallowing sips of water
- once tube has been inserted the desired distance confirm position
  - \*confirm with CXR, aspirate gastric contents and < 4ph, instill 3-10ml of air while auscultating over the epigastric region)
- tape tube to nose and cheek as needed
  - \*withdraw tube if choking or coughing occurs. Do not advance if resistance is felt

Reference: First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) Pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines for Nurses in Primary Care: Chapter 2 Pediatric Procedures (2010), UpToDate (2012), ENPC (2012)