Appendix A

Method for passing NGT

- Get out all equipment required.
- Wash hands.
- Decide whether the tube is to be placed nasally or orally.
- Give 0.5ml of sucrose to the baby prior to insertion of the tube and if possible do containment holding.
- Take the feeding tube and measure the length required.
- If passing an oro gastric tube, measure the tube from the tip of the ear lobe to the mid point of the lips and down to the xiphysternum.
- If passing a naso gastric tube, measure from the tip of the ear lobe to the bridge of the nose down to the xiphysternum.
- Place a small piece of duoderm on to the face where the tube is to be secured.
- Place the tube down the nose or in to the mouth and down in to the stomach to the measured length.
- Once at the desired length use the 20ml syringe and aspirate a small amount of gastric contents from the stomach.
- Test this aspirate on pH paper to a test the milks PH. A pH of 5.5 or below is required. See Appendix A if unable to obtain an aspirate or the correct pH.
- When the correct pH has been obtained secure the tube with the tape.
- Record the size of tube used, length of the tube at the lips or nares and the pH, on the feeding chart.
- The tube is ready to be used. Prior to each use the pH and length of the tube must be checked and documented on the feed chart.

Feeding method

- Remove the plunger from the 20ml syringe and screw in to the end of the feeding tube.
- Fill the syringe with the required volume of feed.
- The feed may need to be plunged slightly to start the feed flowing by gravity. If the feed stops which may occasionally happens, it will need a slight plunge to get it started again.
- The feed is not to be fully plunged.
- If something has been added to the feed to thicken it, the feed will take longer to go down and may need to be plunged at intervals.
- When passing the tube or using the tube for feeding or medication, the baby must be observed at all times.
- If the baby’s colour changes the passing of the tube or the use of it must be stopped and the baby allowed time or assistance to recover.
- If the baby starts to gag or vomit again stop passing it or feeding with it and allow the baby time or assistance to recover.