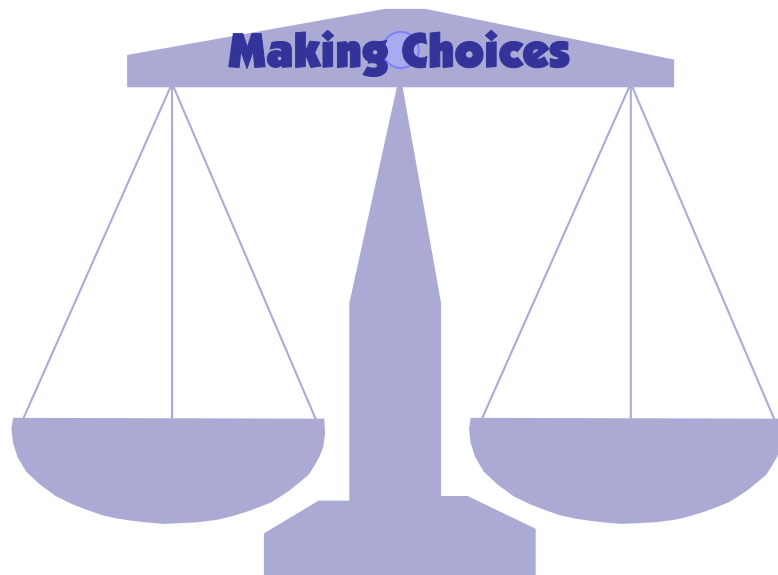
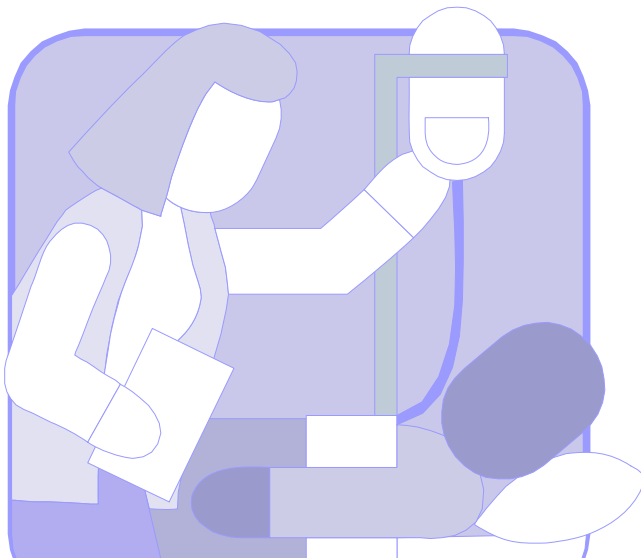




Long Term Feeding Tube Placement in Elderly Patients



**A booklet and audio tape for substitute decision makers
© Mitchell, Tetroe and O'Connor 2001 (updated 2008).**

Developers:

SL Mitchell MD MPH FRCPC
JM Tetroe MA
AM O'Connor RN PhD
A Rostom MD FRCPC
C Villeneuve BSc RD
B Hall RN BScN

Geriatric Medicine, Epidemiology
Health Research
Nursing, Epidemiology
Gastroenterology, Epidemiology
Dietician
Geriatric Nursing

Developer disclosure:

None of the developers or their institutional affiliations can gain financially from the information contained within this patient decision aid.

Division of Geriatric Medicine
Clinical Epidemiology Program
The Ottawa Hospital – Civic Campus
Ottawa Health Research Institute
1053 Carling Ave
Ottawa Ontario K1Y 4E9
Canada

E-mail: ohdec@ohri.ca
Susan Mitchell: smitchell@hrca.harvard.edu



Personal Worksheet for Feeding Tube Placement



1

Advantages	Other Considerations	Disadvantages
Conditions may improve Underlying condition 	Factors associated with decreased survival with tube feeding The patient is over 85 ☐ Yes ☐ No Undernourished ☐ Yes ☐ No Previous malignancy ☐ Yes ☐ No	Complications from the feeding tube: Minor: infection, bleeding, temporary diarrhea, tube problems Major: infection, bleeding, tube problems, death
Likelihood of recovery ☐ Likely ☐ Unlikely ☐ Unsure Likelihood of eating again independently ☐ Likely ☐ Unlikely ☐ Unsure	Aspiration Feeding tube will not prevent aspiration in those who are likely to aspirate	Agitation with the tube Is the patient likely to get agitated with the feeding tube? ☐ Likely ☐ Unlikely ☐ Unsure
May improve nutrition Patient is very malnourished ☐ Yes ☐ No Possibility of handfeeding ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe		Need for special facility Will feeding tube limit where patient can receive care? ☐ Likely ☐ Unlikely ☐ Unsure

Quality of Life				
Patient's quality of life in the last 3 months	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Poor	☐ Unsure
Will feeding tube provide quality of life acceptable to patient?	☐ Likely	☐ Unlikely	☐ Unsure	
Is feeding tube likely to prolong a poor quality of life?	☐ Likely	☐ Unlikely	☐ Unsure	

2

What would your family member want? Your family member has previously expressed wishes about their health care? Previous discussion ☐ Yes ☐ No Living will ☐ Yes ☐ No	What do you think (based on a living will, previous discussion or your family member's beliefs) is the patient's overall feeling in this situation about the use of medical technologies like feeding tubes? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ In Favour Unsure Against
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Personal Worksheet for Feeding Tube Placement



3

How the decision is affecting you?

	Not much	Somewhat	A lot
Feelings of guilt	☐	☐	☐
Feelings of pressure from others	☐	☐	☐
Conflict between your personal beliefs and those of the patients	☐	☐	☐
Worry about future decisions regarding continuing with the tube	☐	☐	☐

4

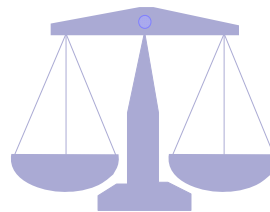
What questions need answering before you can decide?

5

Who should decide about placing the tube?

6

What is my overall “leaning” about placing the feeding tube?



☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Put in tube Unsure Supportive care only