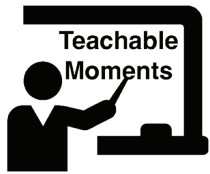


The Case of a Resident With a PEG Tube

Improving Skin Care and MDRO Prevention in Long-Term Care



The Case

Mr. Michaels is an 89-year-old resident who just returned from the hospital following a PEG tube placement. The PEG tube was placed just over 24 hours ago. Mr. Michaels always receives a shower on his bathing days, and today is his normally scheduled day for bathing.



The Challenge

Mr. Michaels' PEG tube is a new device to the facility. Most nurses and certified nursing assistants (CNA) have not had to provide care to a resident with a PEG tube. The team is not aware that bathing practices need to change after PEG tube insertion.

The Error

The CNA avoids cleaning the PEG tube and the skin surrounding the insertion site. The CNA does not assess the PEG tube's insertion site and fails to notice the thick white drainage and red-like appearance of the surrounding skin.

Knowledge Check Questions

1. Which of the following should Mr. Michaels receive?

- A. A bed bath
- B. A shower
- C. A tub bath

2. Who is responsible for looking at the insertion site for PEG tubes?

- A. Only CNAs
- B. Only physicians
- C. Everyone

Rationale for Each Answer

Rationale for question 1

After PEG tube placement, a resident should avoid taking a shower for 2 days and a tub bath for at least 2 weeks. Mr. Michaels is also experiencing some acute weakness, which would make his transfer to the shower chair challenging, possibly resulting in a preventable fall.

Rationale for question 2

Even though CNAs do not administer tube feeds, water, or medications through enteral tubes, they are still able to look at the insertion site and notice if something does not look right. If the CNA notices changes related to the enteral tube, the CNA should alert the resident's nurse or provider. If those individuals are not readily available, the CNA can alert a charge nurse or supervisor.

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Answers to the Knowledge Check: 1-A; 2-C