

# Safety Tips for Tubing and Wires

The tubing and wires that are part of the equipment PHS provides—like a food pump, IV pump, apnea monitor, or oximeter—could get wrapped around your child's neck if not used properly. This could lead to strangulation or death. Follow these tips for safe use of tubing and wires.

## Equipment and Tubing Location



If possible, avoid leaving tubing and wires in a place where your child could become entangled.

- For example, if leaving a pulse oximeter probe on your child overnight, attach it to their toe, not their finger.
- Or, if possible, deliver all food pump feedings during the daytime or while a caregiver is present.



Place equipment, tubing, and wires at the foot of the bed, not the head of the bed.

- Also, do not place equipment above your child where it could be pulled onto them.



When placing a nasal cannula on your child, secure it behind their ears.

## Point Tubing Toward the Feet



Secure tubing and point it toward your child's feet, not their head.



Run it inside their clothing, such as through a pant leg or the buttons on their pajamas.

- Or secure it to the outside of their clothing with a clip or medical tape.



For infants wearing a one-piece sleeper, pull tubing down toward the ankle instead of up through the top. Do not use sleepwear that requires pulling the tubing up toward the neck.

- Look for sleepers that zip down instead of up, or sleepers with buttons.
- Or cut a hole in the sleeper to bring the tubing through.

## Next Steps

Talk with your child's health care provider about:

- Whether your child has been tangled in their tubing before.
- Other steps you should take to help make sure tubing does not get wrapped around your child's neck.
- Other concerns you may have about the risks from tubing and wires.

Questions? Call PHS and ask to speak to a clinician.