Talking Points for Gastric pH Testing (confirming NG tube placement)

* The strips go 4.5 – 10.0
  + You should never see 10.0
  + The pH that confirms proper placement of the NG is **Less than or equal to 5.5**
  + Anything above that must be confirmed with an x-ray
  + 7.0 usually indicates the tube is in the lung
* If none of the colors on the strip match the colors on the packet run a Gastrocult
  + Gastrocult pH goes down to 1, 2, 3 and 4 (You’re testing stomach acid)
* How to do the testing
  + Appropriate hand hygiene must be followed. See test procedure for details.
  + Place your strip on a paper towel
  + Drip each square with aspirate
  + Tip strip on its side to remove excess fluid
  + Interpret pH immediately
    - The longer you agonize over the colors the darker they will get
  + Record your results under Floor Resulted Labs (also built in Allscripts)
    - Will ask for the Lot#, itty bitty numbers on packet
* QC will be done once a month on EVERY open packet of test strips
  + 2 Levels, an acid and a base
* Please review the lab procedures in the BDHS organization-wide Policies and Procedures manual. This manual may be found in SharePoint under the Policies and Procedures tab, Organization Wide, Laboratory. You will be asked to locate these procedures by an inspector.

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