

# Assessment of Nutrition Support Route

The figure is a flow chart with 22 labeled boxes linked by arrows. The chart is multi-directional. At each step, arrows point forward to one or more boxes and, in certain cases, back to the previous box or boxes. Here the flow chart is described as lists in which the possible next steps are listed beneath each box label.

## 1. Nutrition Assessment. Is there a Functional GI Tract?

- If no, proceed to 2a.
- If yes, proceed to 2b.

## 2a. Parenteral Nutrition. Is the nutrition support needed long- or short-term?

- If long-term, choose Central PN and proceed to 3.
- If short-term, choose Peripheral PN and proceed to 3.

## 2b. Enteral Nutrition. Is nutrition support needed long-term or short-term?

- If long-term, decide between a gastrostomy or jejunostomy and proceed to 4.
- If short-term, decide between nasogastric, nasoduodenal, or nasojejunal feeding routes and proceed to 4.

## 3. GI Function. Has the GI Function returned?

- If **no**, choose Central PN. Only proceed if the GI function returns.
- If **yes**, return to 2b.

## 4. GI Function. Is the GI Function normal or compromised?

- If Normal, choose Standard Formula and proceed to 5a.
- If Compromised, choose Specialty Formula and proceed to 5b.

## 5a. Nutrient Tolerance – How is the patient's nutrient tolerance of standard enteral formula?

- If the patient's nutrient tolerance is adequate, progress to oral feeds or maintain Enteral Nutrition protocol. End of decision flowchart.

- If the patient's nutrient tolerance is inadequate, choose PN supplementation. End of decision flowchart.

**5b. Nutrient Tolerance – How is the patient's nutrient tolerance of specialty enteral formula?**

- If the patient's nutrient tolerance is adequate, progress to oral complex diet or maintain EN protocol. End of decision flowchart.
- If the patient's nutrient tolerance is inadequate, choose PN supplementation. End of decision flowchart.