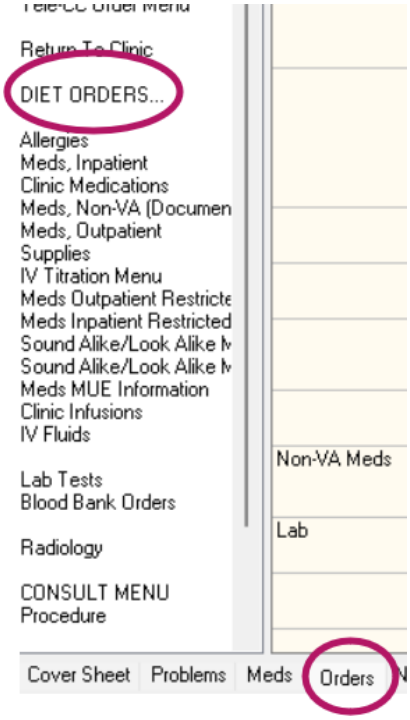
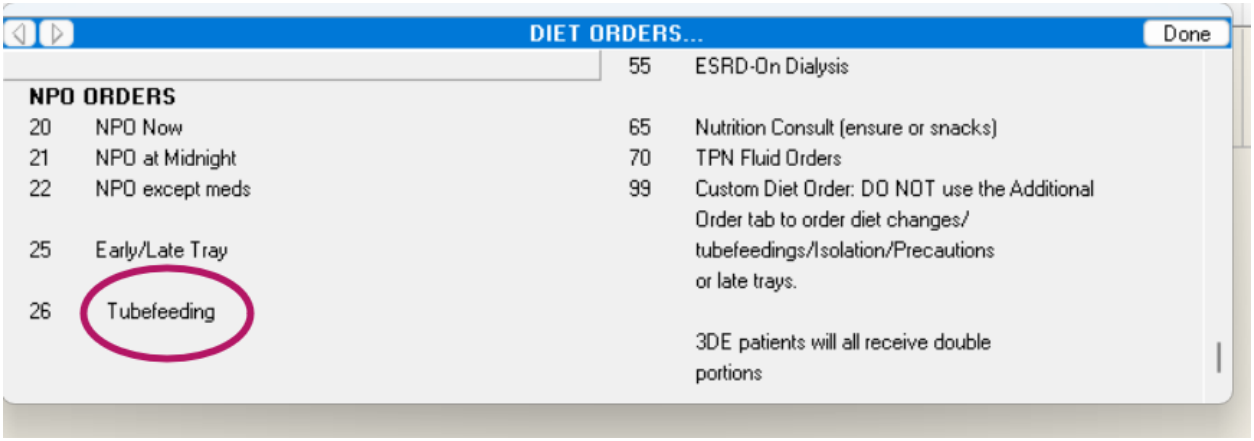
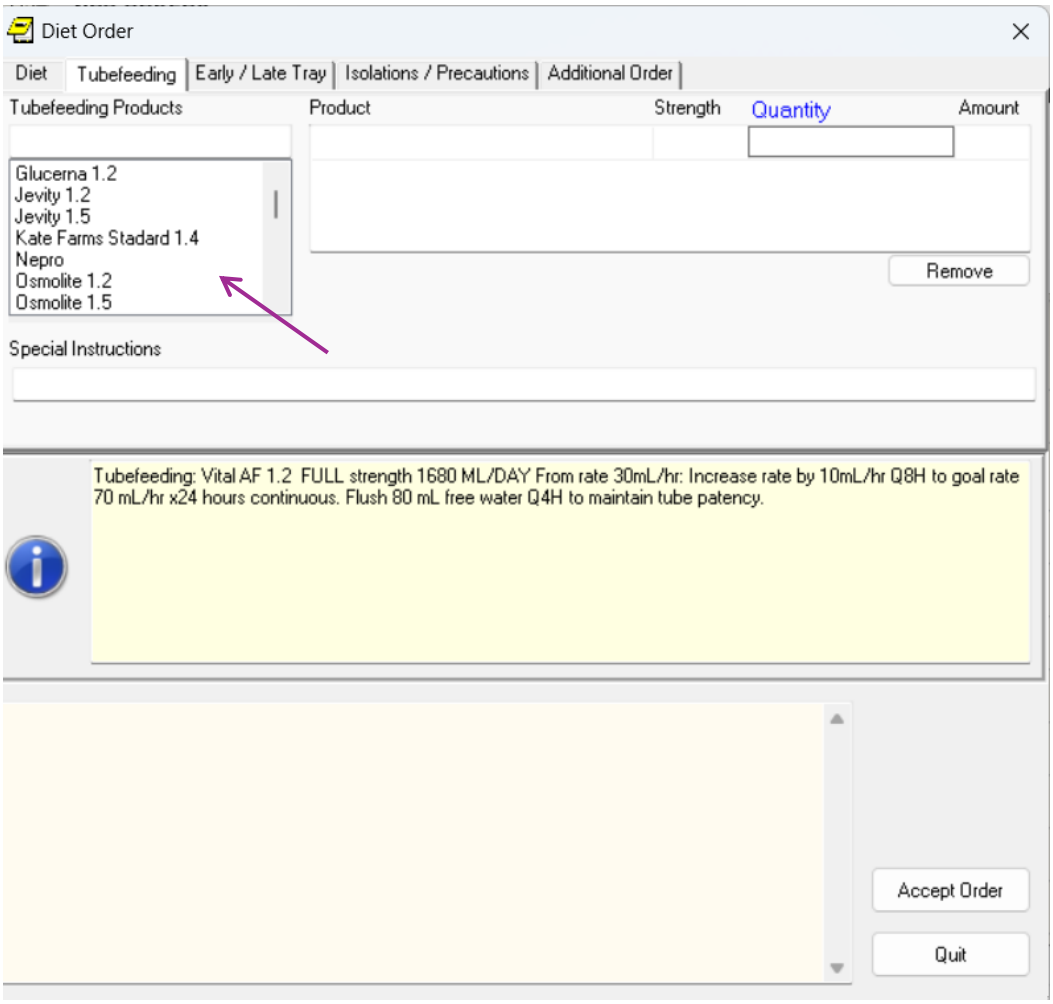
Please always place consult to nutrition for tube feeding/fluid flush recommendations. Instructions below are for entering tube feeding orders if dietitian is unavailable in interim or recommendations were previously provided. Please alert nutrition team to all new tube feeding orders.



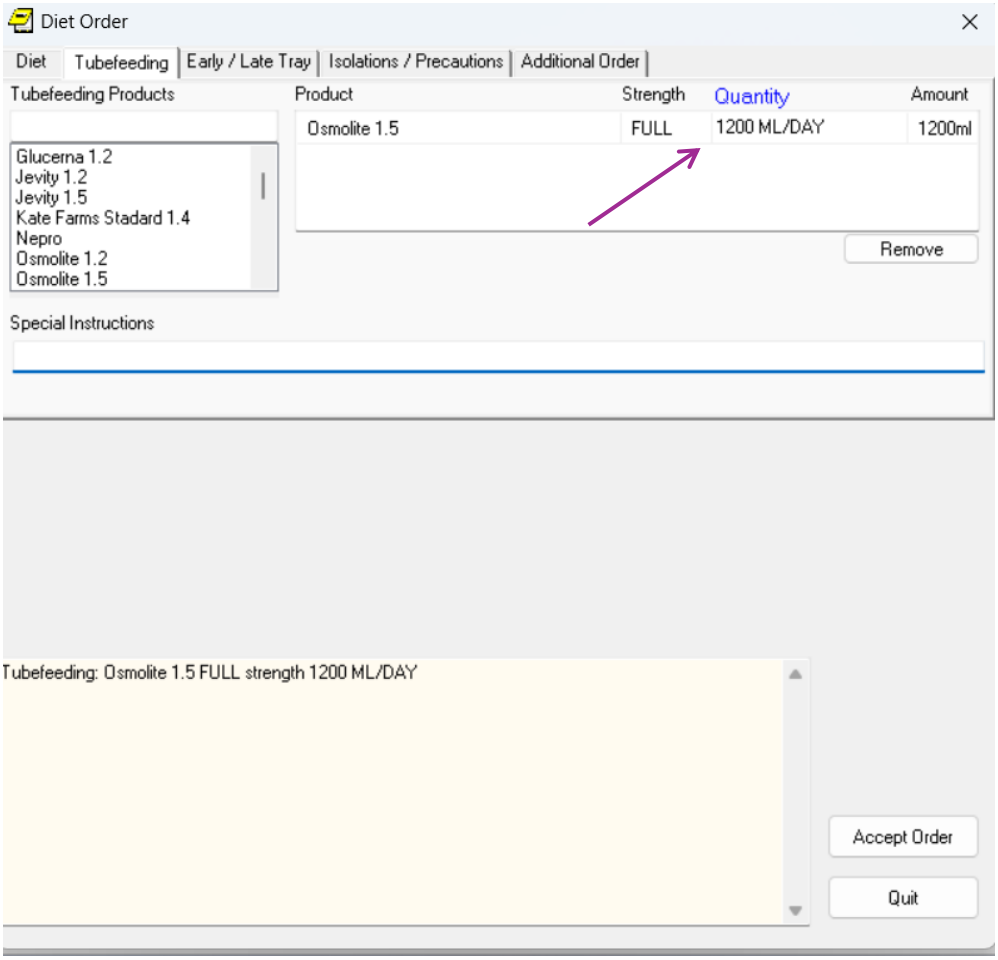
1. Under orders tab, select diet orders



2. Select tube feeding option



3. Choose tube feed formula. Selected formula should then show under “product”. Do not edit strength.

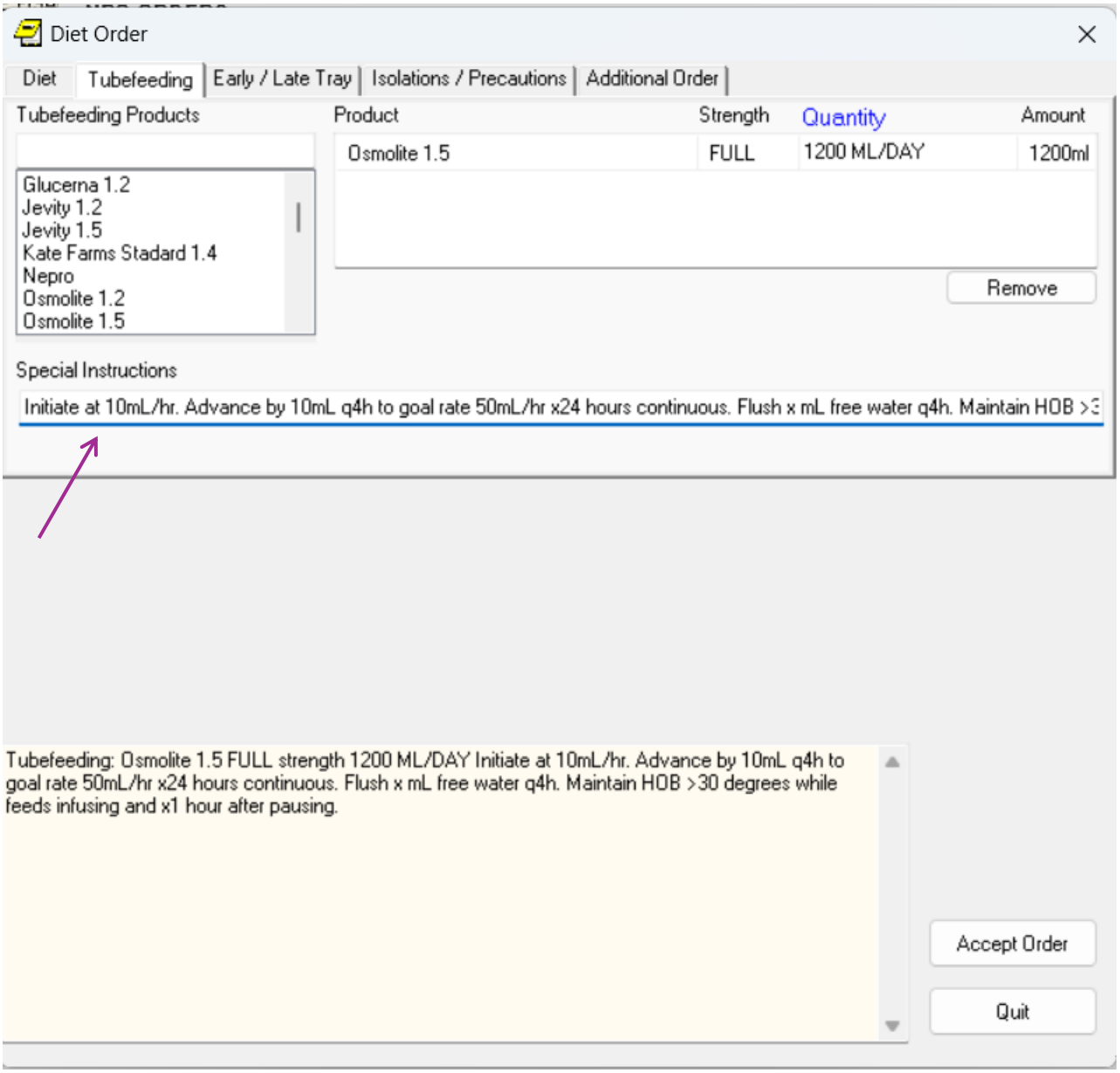


4. Enter **total daily volume of formula (in mL/day).** This volume tells the kitchen how many 1L bags or bottles to send to the unit

Example: 50mL/hr continuous feeds x24 hours = 1200mL/day

70mL/hr cycled feeds x16 hours/day =1120mL/day

QID bolus feeds of 300mL each = 1200mL/day



5. Type instructions to nursing under special instructions

For continuous feeds (feeds running for 24 hours/day):

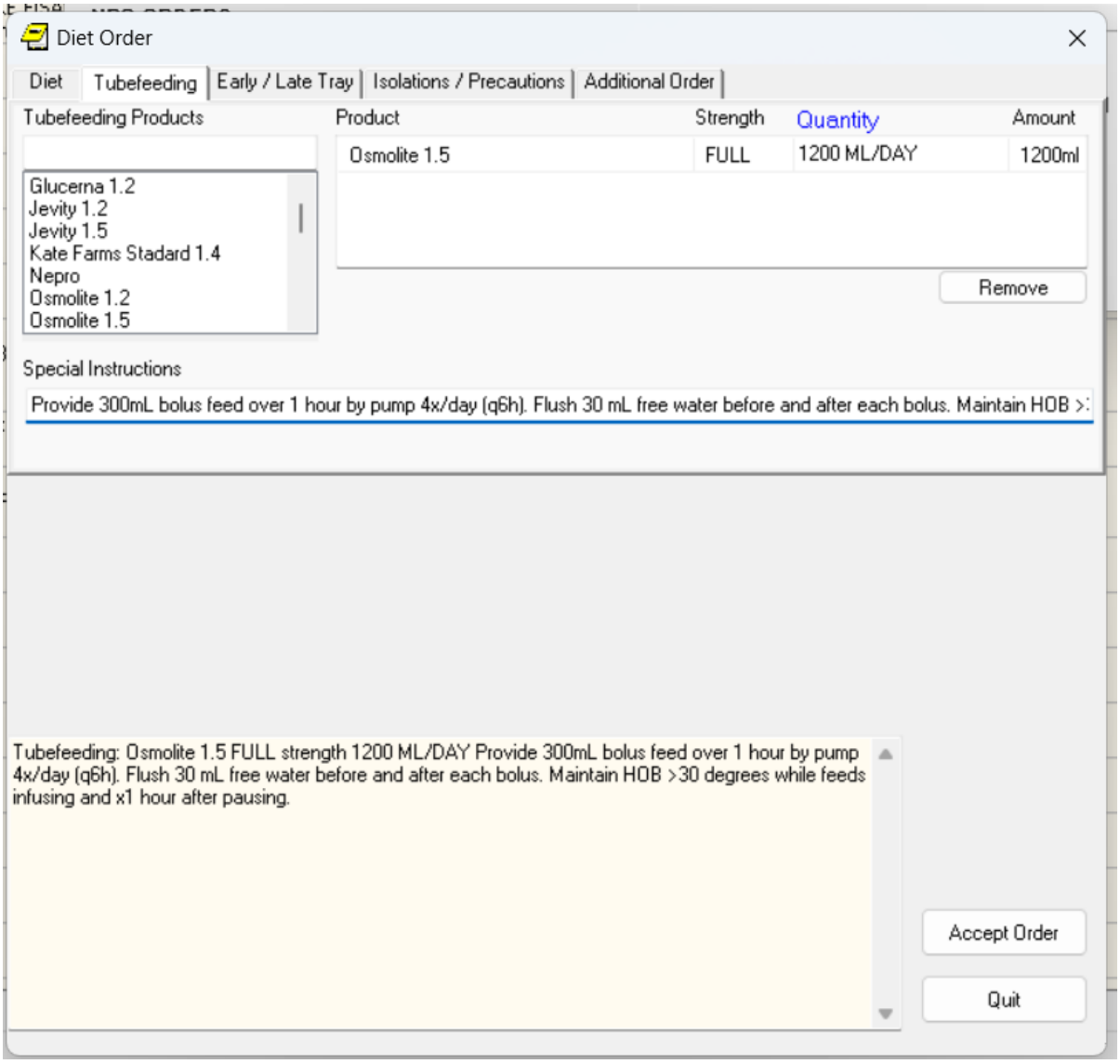
- Include starting rate (usually 10 or 20mL/hr)
- Specify rate of advancement (ex: advance rate by 10mL/hr Q4H)
- Specify final goal rate (ex 60 mL/hr x24 hours continuous)
- **Include free water flushes.** A minimum of 30-50mL free water flush Q4H or Q6H is required to maintain tube patency. Ordering tube feeding without free water flushes is never appropriate
    - Free water flushes can be provided by pump Q1H, Q2H, Q3H, Q4H, Q5H, Q6H. Smaller volume flushes provided more frequently (ex 200 mL Q2H instead of 400mL Q4H) are generally more appropriate/ better tolerated.
- **Ex:** *Initiate at 10mL/hr. Advance rate by 10mL/hr Q4H to goal rate 50mL/hr x24 hours continuous. Flush 100 mL free water Q4H.*

For cycled feeds (12, 14, 16, 18 hour feeding cycles, etc.)

- Include starting rate (usually 10 or 20mL/hr)
- Specify rate of advancement (ex: advance rate by 10mL/hr Q4H)
- Specify final goal rate and number of hours feeds are infusing (ex 75 mL/hr x18 hours/day)
- **Include START & STOP times:** Ex "START 6 AM, STOP 9PM" for a 15 hour feeding cycle
    - Start and stop times **must** be included for nursing or veteran will not receive full volume tube feeding
- **Include free water flushes.** A minimum of 30-50mL free water flush Q4H or Q6H is required to maintain tube patency. Ordering tube feeding without free water flushes is never appropriate
    - Free water flushes can be provided by pump Q1H, Q2H, Q3H, Q4H, Q5H, Q6H. Smaller volume flushes provided more frequently (ex 200 mL Q2H instead of 400mL Q4H) are generally more appropriate/ better tolerated.
    - If possible, plan to provide fluid flushes only while feeds are running to permit disconnection from pump & lowering of HOB on "off" hours
- **Ex:** *Initiate at 10mL/hr. Advance rate by 10mL/hr Q4H to goal rate 75 mL/hr x15 hours/day (START 6AM, STOP 9PM). Flush 200 mL free water Q4H while feeds running.*

For bolus feeds

- Specify volume of bolus feed to be provided, specify pump provision over 1 hour, & state frequency (ex: Provide 300mL bolus feed over 1 hour by pump Q4H)
    - Consider smaller volume bolus feeds (ex ~200 mL) in hospitalized veterans until tolerance is confirmed
    - Do not start bolus feeding for patients not previously on tube feeding (patients should demonstrate tolerance of continuous or cycled feeds first)
- **Fluid flushes: MUST be provided before & after bolus feeds** to maintain tube patency (minimum 30-50mL free water flush before and after)
    - **Note**: total bolus + flush volumes will be provided over ~60-75 minutes. Bolus feeds of 400mL formula + 200mL free water flush before & after indicates patient will receive 800mL volume in ~60 minutes (this is likely excessive)
- Ex (below):



*Note all tube feeds provide some free water. More concentrated formulas (1.5, 1.8, 2.0 formulations) provide less free water than 1.0 and 1.2 formulations. Higher free water flush volumes will be needed for 1.5-2.0 concentration formulas.

***Adding free water flushes as additional diet orders or separate nursing orders often leads to confusion given obsolete orders are not deleted in a timely manner and multiple conflicting orders are left active (please include fluid flushes *in* tube feeding order)**