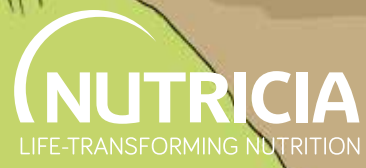


# TIMMY THE TIGER

## AND HIS TUMMY TUBE

A story about a strong little tiger and his PEG tube.  
This booklet is intended for patients and parents  
of patients using enteral feeding.

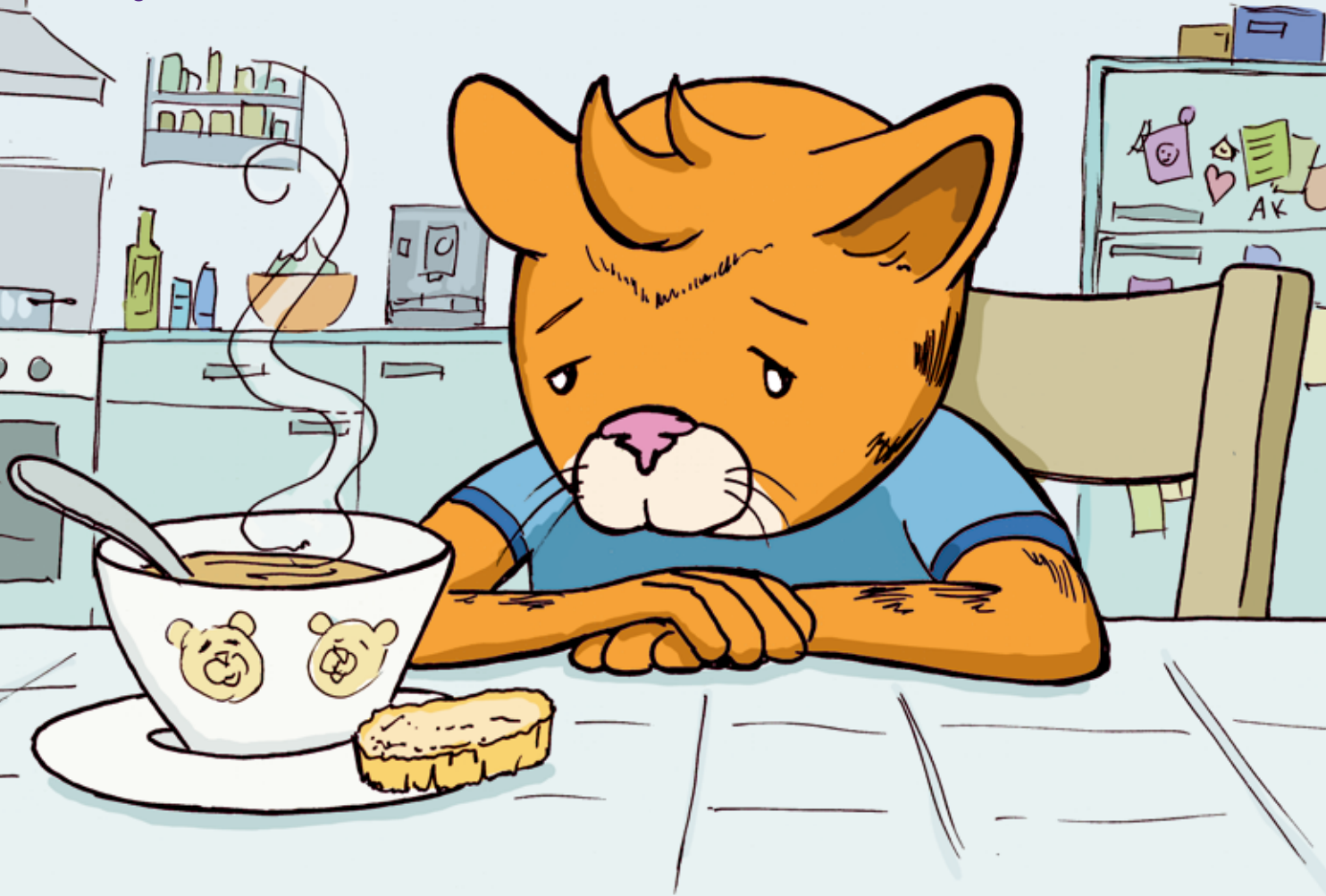




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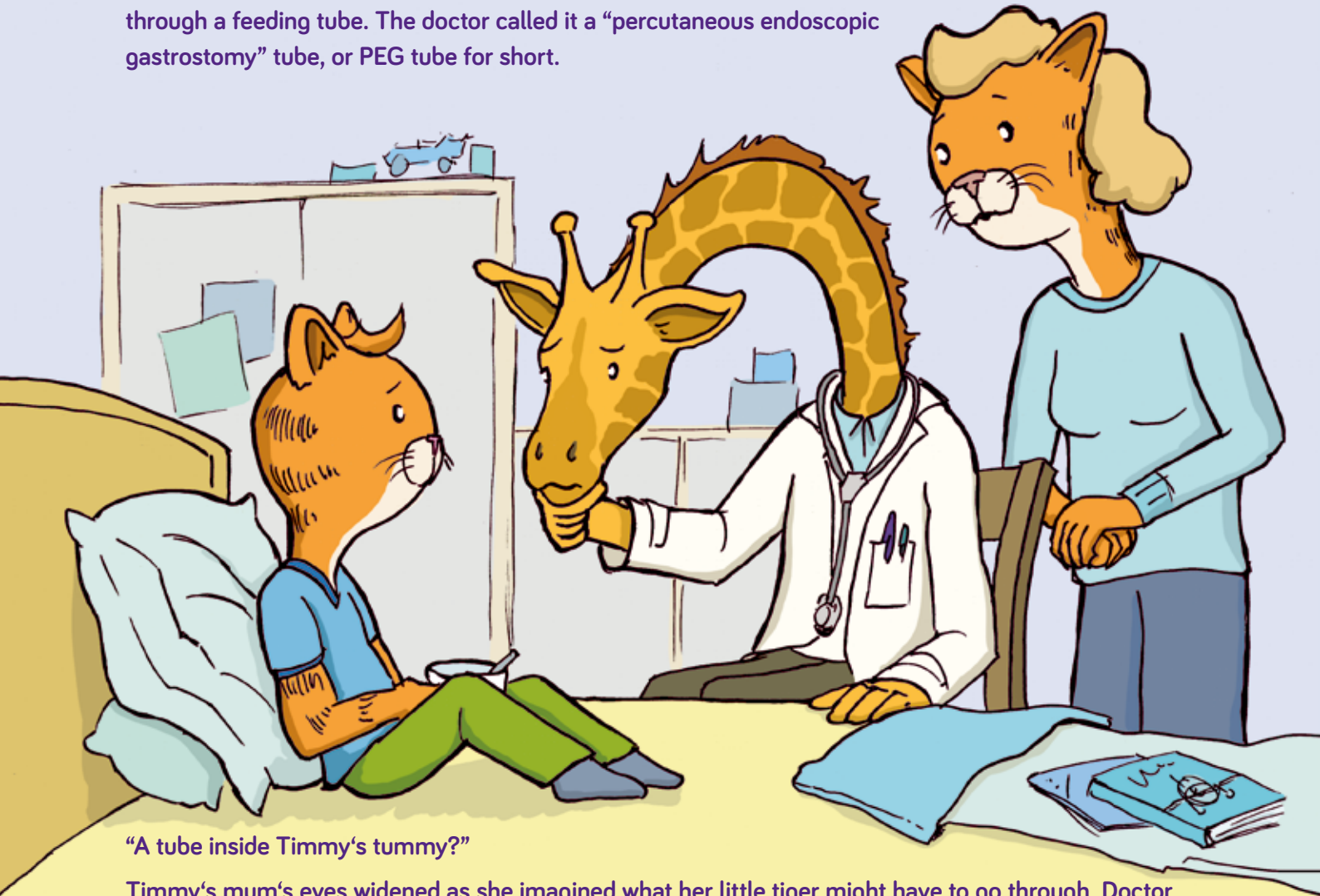
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Timmy the Tiger was a big boy already who loved nothing more than playing with his toy planes and going on outings with his parents. One day, though, Timmy became really ill. Eating something made him cough and he found it difficult to swallow.



He didn't want to go on outings anymore, or play with his toy planes. Timmy simply couldn't eat properly anymore, so he grew thinner and thinner and was no longer as strong as he used to be. Timmy's mum became really worried about him. She asked Doctor Giraffe for help.

The doctor had a good look at Timmy and gave his mum lots of tips on how she could change his normal food to make him put on some weight again. However, nothing worked. Timmy just kept on losing weight, and that is why the doctor suggested that Timmy should get some extra special food through a feeding tube. The doctor called it a “percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy” tube, or PEG tube for short.



“A tube inside Timmy’s tummy?”

Timmy’s mum’s eyes widened as she imagined what her little tiger might have to go through. Doctor Giraffe calmed her down though, and explained that the special food Timmy would get through the feeding tube would really help him to get better.

Timmy and his parents thought this was a good idea, so they set out for the hospital. All of them were a bit excited and nervous. Then Timmy's dad had a great idea: He pretended to be an ambulance driver and made very loud siren noises as if their car had one of those blue flashing lights on top. Timmy thought this was really funny; it made him laugh so much that he forgot all about the hospital and the feeding tube.

*Nee-naw - nee-naw - nee-naw...*

*here comes the ambulance driven by*

*Timmy's dadaaaa...*

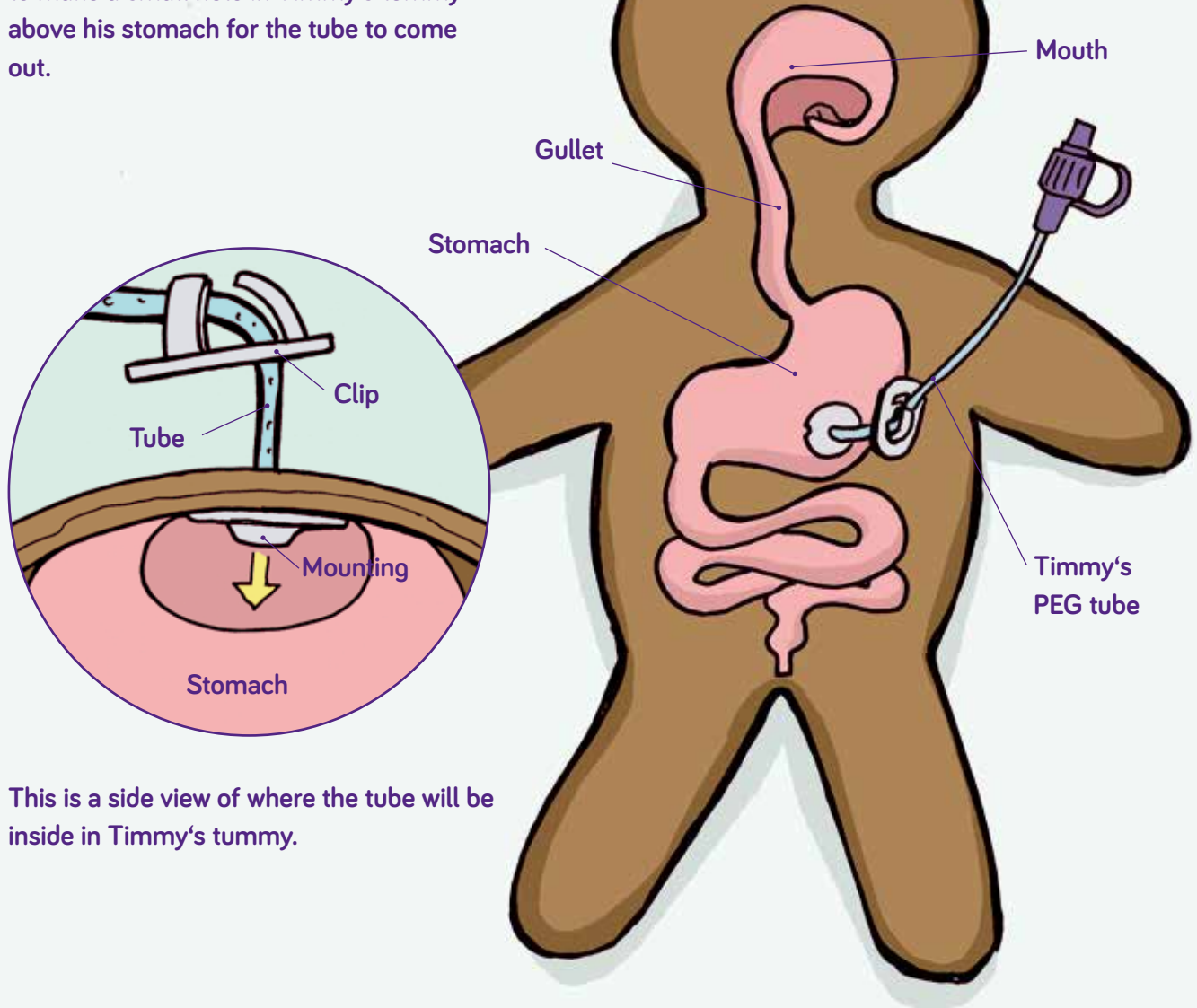


Everyone at the hospital was really nice to Timmy. Doctor Giraffe even brought a special teddy bear along which he used to explain to Timmy and his parents exactly how the tummy tube would be put inside Timmy's body. Doctor Giraffe explained everything so well that the whole Tiger family felt relaxed and were no longer worried about the operation.



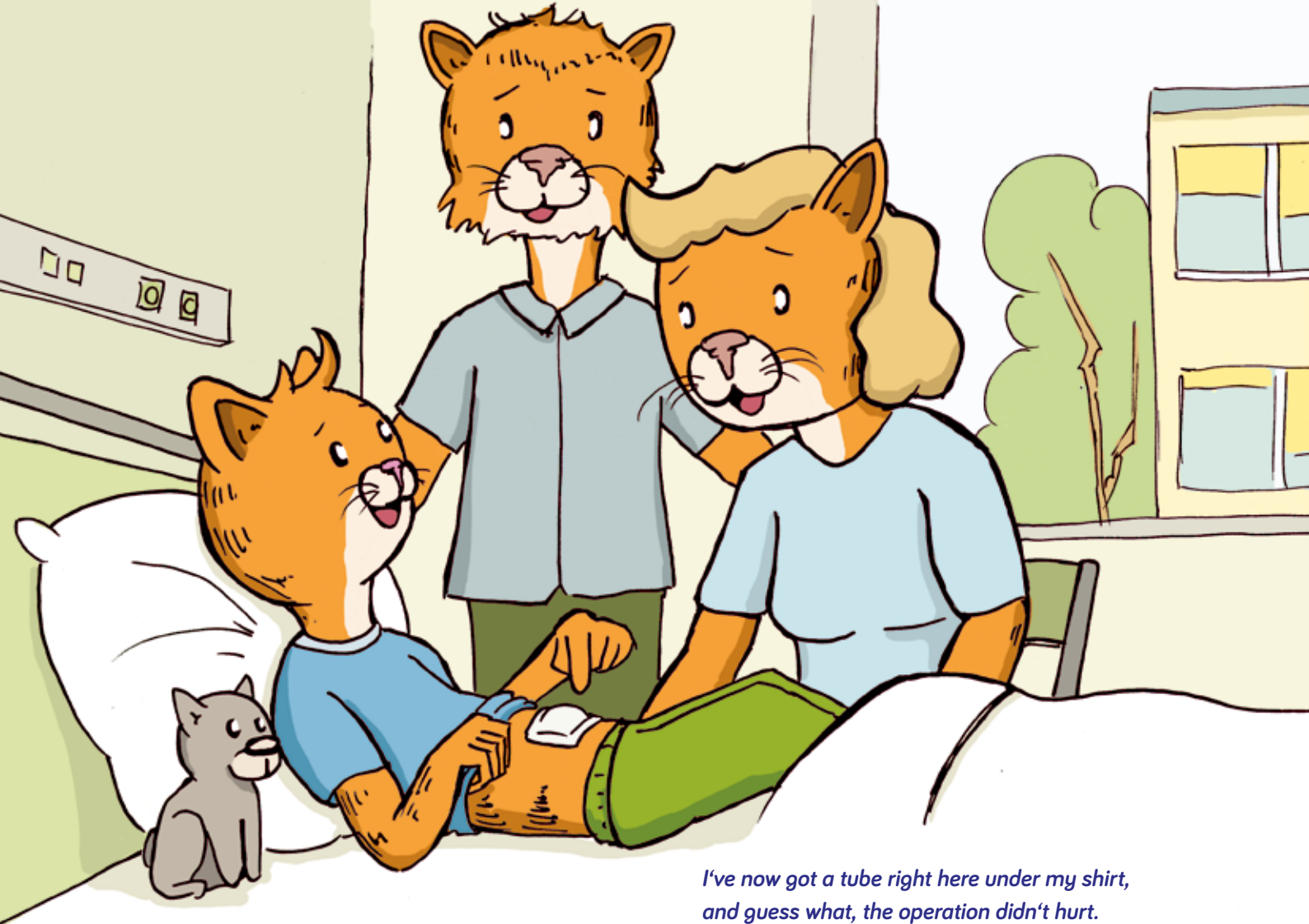
*Everyone is really nice here, just like the doctor said,  
I even have my own room and my very own bed.  
I liked the special teddy bear best of all,  
he made a big operation look quite small!*

You can see here what Doctor Giraffe showed Timmy and his parents. The special teddy bear was special because it had a mouth, a gullet and a stomach, just like Timmy. Doctor Giraffe will need to make a small hole in Timmy's tummy above his stomach for the tube to come out.



This is a side view of where the tube will be inside in Timmy's tummy.

Timmy's operation went well and didn't take long at all. Doctor Giraffe gave Timmy special medicine that put him into a deep sleep. When he woke up again, his mum and dad were already by his bedside and were pleased that everything had gone so smoothly. Timmy now had a small bandage on his tummy that covered his new PEG feeding tube.

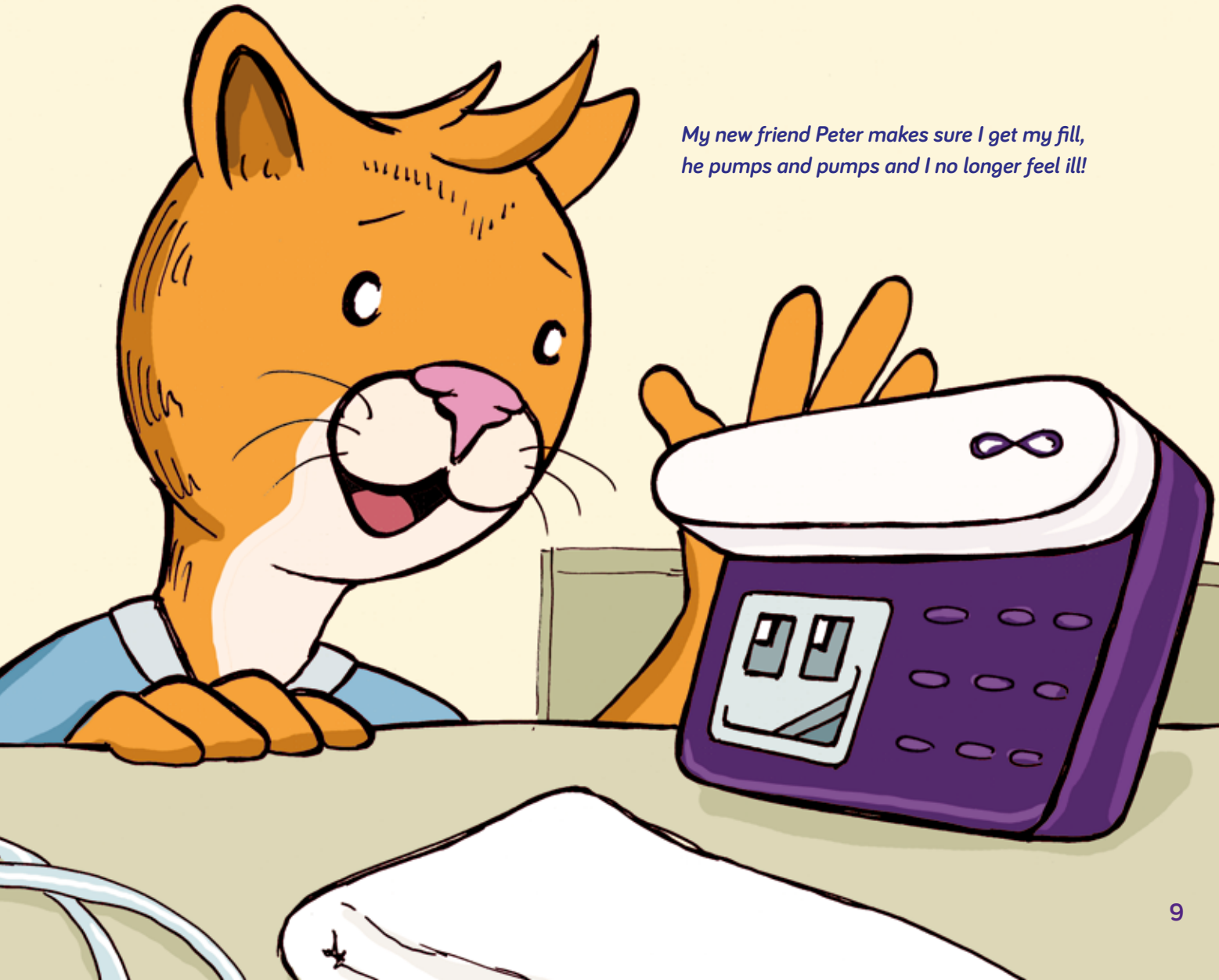


*I've now got a tube right here under my shirt,  
and guess what, the operation didn't hurt.  
My tube is so weeny it makes me smile,  
I'm even allowed out of bed for a while!*



On the morning after the operation, Timmy met his new friend Peter the Pump, and they got on well with each other right from the start. Timmy was really glad that Peter would now help the extra special food to go right into his tummy through his new PEG feeding tube.

*My new friend Peter makes sure I get my fill,  
he pumps and pumps and I no longer feel ill!*

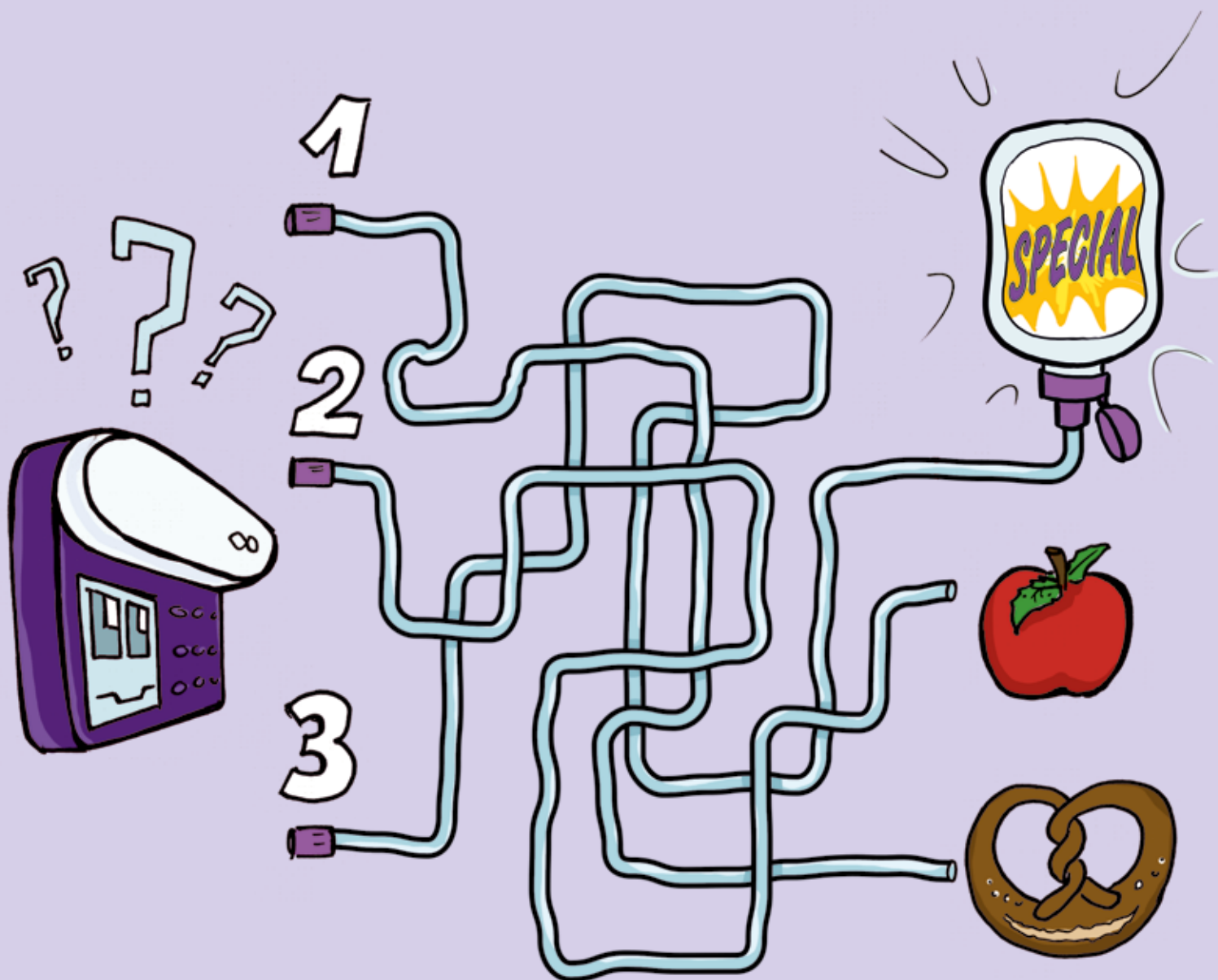


Timmy was still able to swallow a little bit so he could still eat normal food as well, just not enough to make him grow big and strong. His new tummy tube and his new friend Peter simply made sure that the extra special food which Timmy needed would go straight into his stomach. Peter's job was to clip himself to the pump stand so he could hold the pack with Timmy's special food.

Timmy wondered what was actually in his special food ...



Oh no, what a mess! Can you help Peter the Pump find the right tube that leads to Timmy's special food? Remember, normal food won't fit through the thin tube!

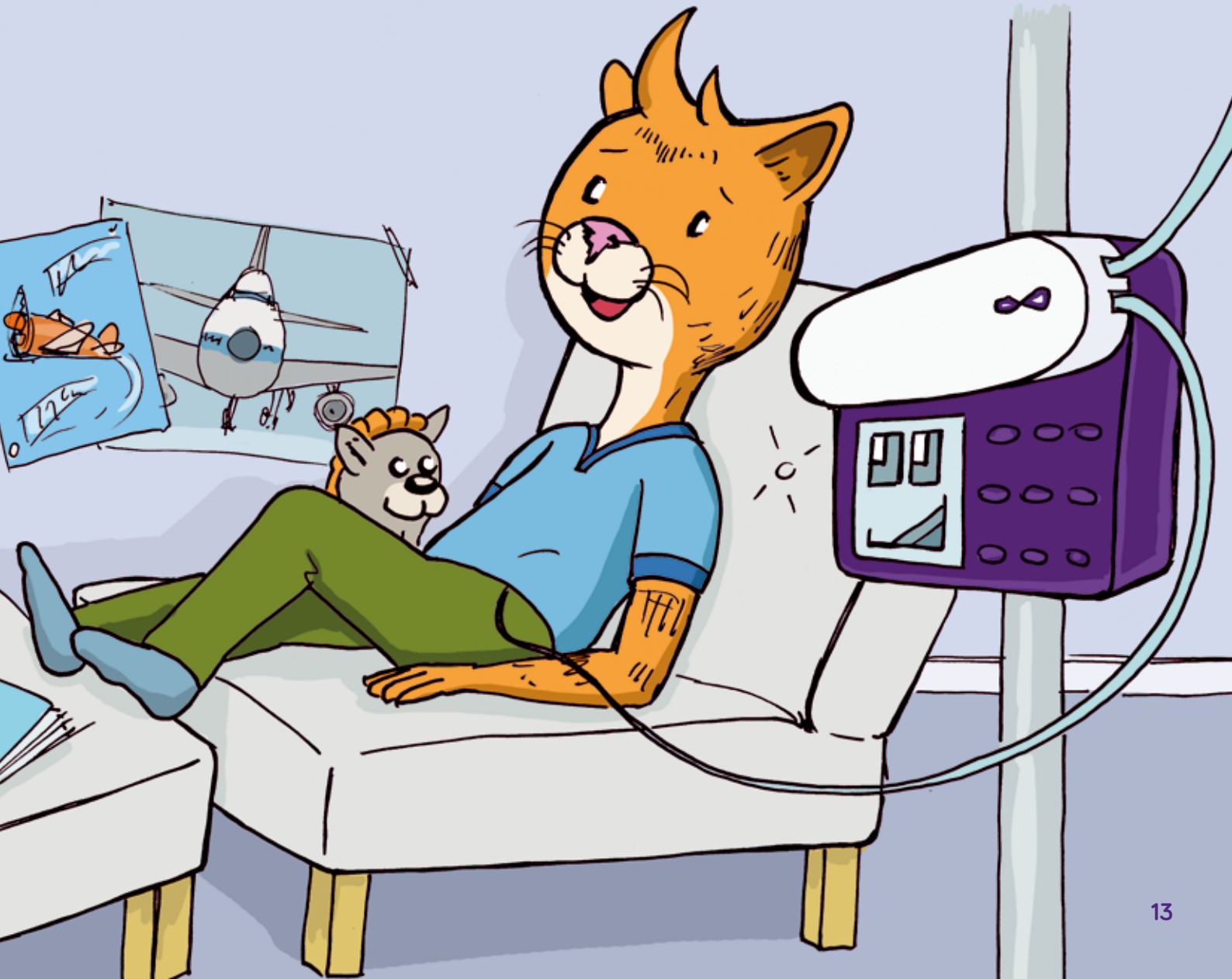


Yippee, Timmy didn't have to stay in hospital long after the operation. He was really glad to go home because he missed his favourite toys when he was in hospital.

*Timmy the Tiger is my name,  
and my favourite toy is this plane.  
It's red and blue and big and strong,  
and can fly up high ever so long!*



Timmy was always given his special food after he'd finished playing and running around. Timmy's mum connected Peter the Pump to the feeding tube and Peter began to pump like mad. Timmy could feel himself getting full up as Peter pumped. They made a good team!



Just like other mums have to make sure that their children brush their teeth after eating, Timmy's mum had to flush Timmy's tummy tube after each special meal to make it squeaky clean again. She didn't have to do this on her own, though. Timmy's other new friend, Simon the Syringe, helped her to rinse the tube out with lots of clean water.



*Simon the Syringe is fantastically strong, he can clean all day long.*

*He can push lots more water than my mommy and cleans my tube right down to my tummy.*

However, Simon the Syringe was good at lots of other things besides cleaning and having fun with water. When Timmy needed to take his medicine, his mum simply put it in Simon the Syringe, who would then shoot it all the way into Timmy's tummy!

*Simon makes tube feeding a doddle because he is a universal model.*

*He puts mum in a happy mood because he does it all, water, medicine and food.*



Oopsy, the story seems to have run out of colour. If you like, you can colour Timmy in with your colouring pens and maybe, you could draw yourself right next to him.





Timmy used to love going on outings with his parents. Luckily, he was able to join them again thanks to his PEG feeding tube and Peter the Pump, Timmy was soon better again. To make sure that Timmy was able to eat something when they were out and about, his mum always packed Peter the Pump and some special food into a small backpack so Timmy could eat anywhere.

*Yippee – Peter is always with me now,  
to make sure that I can have my chow.*

*I can go for a walk and do lots of other things  
thanks to the freedom Peter brings.*



Mum, dad, Timmy's best friend and of course Timmy himself were really happy that Timmy was well again. Dad told them about Doctor Giraffe's latest idea when they went for a walk in the forest and were climbing a hill.



The doctor wanted to replace Timmy's PEG feeding tube with a new, smaller kind of gastrostomy feeding device called a button. He said that it would work just as well but was much, much smaller and less noticeable. Timmy thought that this was a great idea and was looking forward to seeing Doctor Giraffe again.

But that's a story for a different day.

Now you know the story of Timmy and his PEG feeding tube. All of these things next to Timmy were mentioned in the story. Do you remember where you can find them?





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information and resources

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