Controlled Flow Baby Feeder FAQ's

1. **What type of baby is the best candidate for using the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder?**
   The question, rather, is what baby is not a candidate for the Baby Feeder. The Controlled Flow Baby Feeder is designed to help a large variety of babies overcome feeding issues and successfully oral feed. This includes premature and post-operative babies that lack the ability to coordinate the suck, swallow, breathe process.

2. **When should I begin using the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder with a baby?**
   Use of the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder should begin even before the baby begins nippling. On setting "0" the Baby Feeder acts as a pacifier, allowing no flow of air or formula. This allows the baby to adapt to the visual stimulation of the bottle and the tactile stimulation of the nipple itself. From there you can adjust the Feeder to the first setting, introducing taste to the baby. As you feel the baby is ready to begin coordinating the suck, swallow, breathe process, begin utilizing levels 2-5.

3. **Does the rigidity of the nipple with the center channel cause any feeding issues?**
   The center channel of the nipple is a key part of the Baby Feeder. This channel maintains a closed system so the baby always gets a controlled amount of flow at any given time. The rigidity of the center channel also creates other benefits for the baby during feeding. First, the center channel keeps the nipple from collapsing as the baby sucks. Second, the rigidity of the nipple provides a large amount of sensory input to the baby, facilitating the cupping of the tongue for proper feeding.

4. **How do I assemble the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder?**
   Assembling the Bionix Controlled Baby Feeder is simple. The parts are color coded. 1) The yellow flow restrictor screws onto the bottle. 2) The purple seal presses onto yellow flow restrictor. 3) The green flow adjuster snaps over the purple seal onto the yellow flow restrictor. The clear nipple and blue nipple ring screw on as usual. After tightening the blue ring pull on the tip of the clear silicone nipple and push the channel into the green tube.

5. **Can I use thickened formula with the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder?**
   If formula is being thickened to slow the flow for the baby, it is unnecessary when using the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder. The baby feeder restricts the flow of formula on its own. Adding thickened formula to the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder could cause the bottle to clog preventing the baby from obtaining any oral nutrition.

6. **Can the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder be used with a milk fortifier or enriched formula?**
   Anything that thickens or is thicker in consistency than standard formula can prevent the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder from functioning properly, especially at levels 1 and 2. Also, any additives that can clump when not shaken well can clog and prevent the baby from receiving oral nutrition. If fortifiers or enriched formula is essential, you may be able to utilize levels 3 - 5 without clogging.

7. **Is the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder sterilized?**
   Yes, the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder comes gamma sterilized, and ready for use at the bedside.

8. **What is the best way to hold the bottle during feeding?**
   The way in which you hold the bottle while feeding depends on user preference. Bionix suggests an overhand position for holding the Baby Feeder because it provides the most control to change the flow settings during the feeding. However, we encourage you to find a position that is most comfortable and use that position.

9. **What if the baby begins to aspirate?**
   If the baby begins to aspirate, quickly and calmly dial the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder down to a slower setting or to zero flow. Once the baby calms, resume feeding at an appropriate setting.

10. **What is the flow rate of the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder compared to other Nipples?**
    Please see chart.
11. **How can the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder be disinfected between uses?**
   After each feeding take the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder apart, separating all pieces. Utilize the cleaning syringe (included) to flush water through the center channel of the nipple to remove any remaining formula. Wash all parts in warm, soapy water. Rinse thoroughly. *The Controlled Flow Baby Feeder may also be cleaned on the top rack of the dishwasher, or in a microwaveable steam bag.

12. **Is there more than one size nipple available?**
   Yes, there are two nipple sizes available for the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder. The dimensions of the Standard Baby Feeder nipple were carefully selected for the optimal size to meet the needs of the majority of babies using the device. The length of the nipple is very similar to that of the Soothie pacifier, which is designed for babies that are orally feeding. The Blue Preemie Nipple is shorter in length to prevent your smallest babies from gagging, but has the same diameter to promote progress and ease the transition.

13. **Does the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder work for babies without a strong suck?**
   In order to feed on the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder, the baby must be able to suck with enough force to overcome the restrictions imposed by the flow restrictor and the walls of the channel in the nipple. If you do not believe that the baby can suck with enough force, it may be best to use the Controlled Flow Baby Feeder at a higher flow setting or to thin the formula.

14. **Will the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder work for Cleft Palate?**
   The Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder is designed for use by babies requiring consistent flow rates while learning to coordinate the suck/swallow/breathe process. However, it may be useful for babies with other feeding issues, such as cleft palate, as determined by those administering feedings.

15. **How is the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder better than the Haberman Feeder for feeding premature and medically fragile babies?**
   The Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder is designed specifically for babies needing to coordinate suck/swallow/breathe. Flow rates are consistent and mechanically controlled by the device and not by the orientation of the bottle/nipple. The Controlled Flow Baby Feeder also allows for a non-nutritive suck and begins feeding at a much slower rate than the Haberman.

16. **Can I use another nipple on the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder?**
   No, using another nipple on the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder will prevent it from working as intended. The Bionix Nipple uses a center channel to prevent a bolus from forming in the nipple and limits the baby only to what can be drawn through the flow restrictor.

17. **Will the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder work on other bottles found in the hospital?**
   Yes the Bionix Controlled Flow Baby Feeder will work on most graduated bottles found in the hospital.