

## Flushing the Nephrostomy Tube

Equipment:

- Sterile dressing pack (including sterile gloves)
- 10 ml syringe
- 10 mls sterile normal saline
- Alcohol wipe
- New clean nephrostomy bag (or alternative drainage system).

Check the tube and bag to make sure that there are no kinks that may be causing mechanical obstruction. Check the end of the tube to see if it has got a luer lock cap on it as occasionally tubes have been occluded by the use of these caps.

Please note the tear drop on the nephrostomy tube relates to the locking mechanism only, the nephrostomy tube itself cannot be open or closed as it is on free drainage continually (unless capped off).

Action	Rationale
<b>Explain and discuss the procedure with the patient</b>	To ensure patient understands procedure and gives consent
<b>Open dressing pack and prepare equipment</b>	To create a sterile field
<b>Remove urostomy bag (or drainage system) for access to the distal end of the tube</b>	To gain access to distal end of tube for flushing
<b>Using ANTT technique, wipe around the port with alcohol wipe</b>	To minimise the risk of infection
<b>Gently applying even pressure, instil the 10 ml of saline into the nephrostomy tube</b>	Gentle aspiration may be used to dislodge blockage however excessive force may cause bleeding
<b>Allow the saline/urine to flow out of the tube</b>	To check flushing has been successful
<b>Apply clean urostomy bag (or alternative drainage system)</b>	To monitor urine output and observe for any further signs of obstruction

**If the nephrostomy is prone to blocking on a regular basis then it may be appropriate to flush the tube prophylactically.**

Seek medical advice if:

- The tube has stopped draining even after flushing (and adequate fluid intake).
- The tube has become dislodged or falls out.
- Persistent pain following analgesia.

**Contacts:**

**In normal working hours Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm:-**

**Urology Nurse Practitioners via RUH hospital bleeps 7727 or 7419**

**Urology Nurse Specialists based in urology OPD on 01225 824034 or via RUH hospital bleep 7198**

**Out of hours:-**

**An urgent surgical on-call out-of-hours service is available on 07909 532251**