Trouble shooting guide – Nephrostomy tube

Not draining
- If tube has not drained for 2 hours
  - Open all taps, correct any tubing & bags
    - No: Are tubes all O.K. – not kinked or twisted? Are all taps open? Check urostomy bag has good seal
    - Yes: Are you drinking enough?
      - No: Drink half a litre of water and wait half an hour
        - No: District Nurse can call: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Urology Nurse Specialists based in Urology OPD on 01225 624034. An urgent surgical on-call out of hours service is available on 07909 532251
      - Yes: Now draining
        - Keep up fluid intake
  - Yes: Still not draining
    - If District Nurse unable to flush tube
      - Call District Nurse to flush the tube. If tube is prone to blocking it may be appropriate to flush twice a week
      - See guidelines for flushing

Leakage or pain around site
- Blood in drainage bag
  - Increase fluid intake from 2 to 3 litres
    - No: Feeling unwell?
      - No: Blood in drainage bag now clearing
        - Yes: Increase fluid intake 2 to 3 litres if not already done so.
        - Contact your GP surgery to arrange urine sample to be tested as may indicate infection.
        - Take paracetamol regularly (if able)
        - Your GP will treat an infection with antibiotics.
        - Keep up increased fluid intake for at least 7 to 10 days.
      - Yes: Still draining blood?
        - Yes: TUBE FALLEN OUT OR HAS BECOME DISLODGED