



Flushing the Nephrostomy tube



A nephrostomy tube should not need flushing routinely. This should only be needed if the tube gets blocked and troubleshooting measures have failed.

Hopefully, the tube will continue to drain well for the duration, but occasionally a nephrostomy tube can block. If you notice that there is no urine draining from your tube and there is no increase in the amount of urine passed naturally, contact your Healthcare Professional as your nephrostomy may be blocked and need flushing.

Equipment needed:

- Sterile dressing pack, including gloves.
- 10ml luer lock syringe.
- 10ml sterile normal saline or a 10ml pre-filled syringe.
- Alcohol wipe.
- Clean collection bag.

If there is no drainage from your tube over a 12-hour period contact your GP, District Nurse or your urology department.

If your tube seems to be prone to blocking on a regular basis, then it may require flushing more frequently.

Procedure:

1. Check the tube and bag to make sure that there are no kinks that may be causing an obstruction.
2. If there is a physical obstruction that can easily be resolved, then a flush may not be necessary.
3. Wash hands.
4. Open dressing pack and prepare equipment, draw the saline into the syringe if a pre-filled syringe is not available.
5. Apply sterile gloves.
6. Remove the collection bag to allow access to the end of the tube.
7. Wipe the port (open end of the nephrostomy tube) with an alcohol wipe and allow to dry.
8. Using gentle, even pressure, instil 5ml-10ml of saline into the nephrostomy tube.
9. DO NOT use force/excess pressure – if the saline cannot be instilled, STOP!
10. Allow the saline/urine to flow out of the tube naturally. Do not pull on the syringe plunger.
11. Fit a new sterile collection bag.