

NEPHROSTOMY TUBE INSTRUCTIONS

HOW TO FLUSH: Our team will be sure to instruct you. Generally, you will need to:

- Use saline flush syringes
- Connect syringe to the nephrostomy tube
- Slowly instill 10 cc of saline into the tube
- Reconnect the tube to the bag (the fluid will drain back out on its own)

NEW TUBE (not a tube change): If this is the first time you had the nephrostomy tube placed (i.e. this was not a tube change), you will need to flush the tube 3 times per day for 3 days or until the urine is clear (yellow or light pink).

BLOODY TUBE: If your tube is “bloody” – dark blood or bright blood and especially when you see clots, you should:

- call your urologic oncologist
- flush the tube 3 times per day (~ every 8 hours) until urine clears to light pink or yellow

CAPPED NEPHROURETERAL TUBE: If you have a nephroureteral tube (a long nephrostomy tube that extends and drains into that bladder) that is now capped (i.e. a bag is no longer connected to the tube on your back), you will need to flush the tube with 10 cc of saline daily. Instead of reconnecting the tube to a bag, you will simply replace the cap. If your nephroureteral tube is still connected to a bag, please care for it in the same way as you would for a regular nephrostomy tube.

WHEN DO I CALL?: We are always happy to answer any questions that may come up. Call your urologic oncologist with any concerns or questions. Make sure to call without delay with the following issues:

- Fever >101
- New / Unusual / Severe Pain
- Tube not draining
- Urine draining around the tube
- Tube is very bloody