

## **Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG)**

### **Protocol for blocked PEG tube**

There are many different types of feeding tubes used for artificial feeding. You must ensure that the tube the patient has in place is a Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy (PEG) before using this protocol.

#### **Possible Causes:**

- Medications mixed with feed.
- Fat globules in feed can cause blockages if flushing / inadequate flushing occurred before or after administering feeds / medication.
- Crushed medications not fully dispersed in water.
- Multiple medications not given one at a time and flushed in between.

#### **Action: ( in order of priority if one method is unsuccessful, try the next)**

1. Ensure all clamps are open and tubing is not kinked.
2. Connect 50ml enteral syringe to end of tube and try to aspirate to remove any excess fluid.
3. Massage the tube and area around the blockage if obviously visible.
4. Flush with 50ml warm sterile water. Leave in tube (clamp) for 30 minutes - reflush (fill sterile jug with warm water and place the sealed sterile water bottle in the jug)
5. Mix half teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda with 50ml warm sterile water. Leave in tube (clamp) for 30 minutes - reflush
6. When trying to flush, use a push/pull technique on the plunger of the syringe.
7. Massage along the feeding tube - reflush
8. When the tube is clear reflush and start using the tube.

#### **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PROBE OR FORCE FLUIDS DOWN THE TUBE**

If **all** of the above methods fail contact the Clinical Nutrition Nursing Service or refer to the medical team for further advice.

#### **Key Contacts**

Clinical Nutrition Nurse Specialist : Ext: 3067 / Bleep: 2667

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