

Guidance: **How to unblock an enteral tube**

12 October 2020

Step 1:

- Massage length of tube between thumb and forefinger.
- Use push/pull action with syringe
- **DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE**
- Flush with warm water using push pause technique
- If debris is pulled into syringe, discard and refill with fresh water



Step 2:

- If tube remains blocked then instil carbonated water and close end connector. Leave in tube for 60 minutes, then flush again with warm water



Step 3:

- If tube remains blocked then use Clogzapper as per instructions on packaging (to be administered by senior nursing staff or Enteral CNS only)



- Repeat steps 1-3. If tube remains blocked after 3 attempts, contact Enteral CNS or CRS.
- Report incident via Datix