

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
NURSING POLICIES
HARRIS FLUSH**

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Policy No: 8620.130a

Cross Referenced:

Origin: HRMC Division of Nursing

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Authority: Chief Nursing Officer

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SCOPE

All RNs in Inpatient Areas

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to complete a Harris Flush.

POLICY

Physician order needed.

PROCEDURE

Equipment List:

1. Solution as ordered (tepid)
2. Disposable enema set
3. Gloves
4. Lubricant
5. Underpad
6. Paper Wipes
7. Bedpan

1. Assemble apparatus and prepare solution in enema bag. Solution is usually tap water or normal saline. Prepare in patient's bathroom.
2. Position patient in left Sims position.
3. Lubricate tube then gently insert 2-4 inches.
4. Hold enema container 12 inches above rectum. Instill 100-200 cc. Pressure increases with height of container.
5. Lower container 12 inches below level of rectum and drain solution back into container. To aid in expulsion of flatus.
6. Continue instilling and draining until all flatus is expelled. 15-20 minutes for maximum effect. Replace with clean warm solution as needed.
7. Clamp and slowly remove rectal tube and dispose. Drain rectum before discontinuing treatment.
8. Leave patient clean and comfortable.
9. Documentation: Chart on Nurses' Notes, when procedure done, how patient tolerated and results.

REFERENCES:

Textbook of Basic Nursing; Caroline Bunker Rosdahl and Mary T Kowalski, Lippincott. 2011