



Parenteral Nutrition Study

Parenteral feeding is the administration of nutrition intravenously. Parenteral nutrition (PN) is indicated in patients with a compromised nutritional status, where oral or enteral feeding is not an option. In an acute hospital setting, PN is administered to patients with a non-functional, inaccessible or perforated gastrointestinal tract. It is also used to improve and maintain the nutritional status of severely malnourished patients who are being prepared for surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

The aim of the NCEPOD PN study is to identify areas where the care of patients receiving PN might have been improved (remediable factors).

The main thematic areas that will be addressed in this study are:

- 1 Indication for PN
- 2 Type of PN
- 3 Prescribing PN
- 4 Line choice, insertion and care
- 5 Nutrition team
- 6 Complications

All NHS and independent hospitals that admit acute and/or elective admissions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; public hospitals in the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey will be included in the study.

Data will be collected on patients of all ages who received PN between 1st January 2008 and 31st March 2008, as an inpatient. This is the same period as the pilot study. **If you participated in the PN pilot study then we should already have your data for the main study (please can you check that we received your data by contacting our office).**

Patient Identification

This may require help from someone in your pharmacy department who can identify PN prescriptions. Please complete the patient identifier spreadsheet for all patients that received PN as an inpatient between **1st January 2008 and 31st March 2008 inclusive**. Once you have completed the spreadsheet please password protect it and send it to ncepod@nhs.net. Please then phone the NCEPOD office (0207631 3444) with the password. Please return the completed spreadsheet by **Friday 27th February**. If you are unable to meet this deadline please contact the office for an extension.

Patient Care Questionnaire

A patient care questionnaire will be sent to the consultant responsible for the patient at the time of their discharge. In addition, photocopies of specified casenote extracts will be requested (see list below). Consultants will be asked to complete a maximum of 3 questionnaires for this study.

Organisational Questionnaire

We have produced an organisational questionnaire which focuses on the departments, facilities, equipment and staff available for patients requiring PN. A copy of this questionnaire will be sent to you in February.



Casenote extracts

Casenotes from **admission to PN start date and subsequent 2 weeks of PN (or until discharge if this is sooner)** will be requested with the patient care questionnaire.

The extracts that will be requested are as follows

- Inpatient annotations (main doctors' notes).
- Nursing notes.
- Nutrition notes (these are sometimes filed separately)
- Biochemistry results (e.g. LFT, U&E).
- Haematology results (e.g. FBC)
- Drug charts (including PN prescription chart).
- Fluid balance charts (including urine output).
- Nutritional charts
- Observation charts (including TPR, CVP).
- Weight chart.
- Urinalysis.
- X-ray/CT/USS results.
- Any operating notes.

If you have any questions regarding the study please contact Neil Smith (NCEPOD Clinical Researcher, Deputy Chief Executive) by email nsmith@ncepod.org.uk or telephone on **020 7631 3444**.