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Director

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Gateway ref: 001022

Dear patient/parent/carer,

Re: Patient letter for vitamin and trace element infusions

I am writing to you because you, or someone you care for requires parenteral nutrition (PN) and may be receiving a different type of bag than usual.

The PN you have received is known as a multi-chamber bag and, whilst providing most of the nutrition you need, it is not tailored to your individual requirements as it usually would be, meaning that you may need to administer an additional bag of vitamins and trace elements.

This letter is to explain what this means for you, and to reassure you that we will make sure you receive support and the best level of care when using a different feed than you are used to.

How long this issue is likely to last?

It is expected that the issue will last at least until the new year.

The additional infusions

Your usual PN, prior to this change, included the vitamins and trace elements. Due to the issues with Calea's productivity, this is not possible at the moment, meaning vitamins and trace elements may need to be given separately (possibly by mouth) with close supervision. Your nutrition team will look at your individual circumstances as it may be possible for you to have oral vitamins and minerals in this interim period.



Preparation and administration

Nursed patients

If you are having home nursing support for your PN, you will have the infusions prepared and administered along with your usual nursing visits. These nurses are currently undertaking additional training to make sure extra infusions are given safely.

Non-nursed patients

If you are self-caring for your PN, patients and carers will receive additional training, either via group or individual training sessions. You will be contacted by your specialist team to arrange this training which may be in your own home or it may be at a location close to you.

It may be necessary for a different provider to your usual one to give the nursing and training, in this case Calea or your local nutrition support team may contact you for your consent to share some information about you and your treatment plan.

You will have the opportunity to discuss this with your own nutrition team, before and during, these essential infusions. You will be fully supported, and any concerns will be addressed for as long as these infusions are required

Support to you

I'd like to reassure you that we are working hard to make sure your care is maintained at the high standard you expect. NHS England and Improvement continue to work closely with your nutrition support team to make sure you receive answers to any questions or concerns you may have. If you would like to speak to someone, please contact your nutrition support team.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Aidan Fowler
National Patient Safety Director
NHS England and NHS Improvement