

Vital Care of Sioux Falls

Patient Education Series: “Infusing Your TPN”

Introduction

Your home care nurse will give you detailed instruction on how to administer your TPN. This teaching sheet is intended to provide “reminders”, and should be used in addition to detailed demonstration and instruction.

Your TPN will be administered through an IV catheter (PICC, Port or other central line) using an electronic pump to control the flow rate. We have prepared this booklet to make it easier to learn what you need to know. Please feel free to call your home care nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about your infusion. Always feel free to ask questions or express concerns during your learning process.

Key Points About Your TPN Therapy

- Your TPN and supplies will be delivered on a regular schedule. Usually they are delivered once per week. You may get a “supply check” phone call before your delivery. Be prepared to let the pharmacy know how many bags of TPN and other supplies you have left.
- Your supplies should be kept away from children and pets. Keep the supplies in a closed storage box in an area that is dry and dust free.
- Your TPN should be given on a regular schedule based on your doctor’s prescription. The schedule varies from one patient to another. You should discuss your schedule with your nurse or pharmacist.
- Your TPN might be given on a “cyclic” schedule (a continuous infusion for part of the day) or on an “around the clock” continuous schedule. This is based on your doctor’s prescription and on how well you tolerate the infusion rate.
- One of the most important points in infusion of TPN is **infection control**. Please follow all instructions regarding hand washing and using aseptic technique, which prevents contamination of your supplies and your catheter (PICC, Port, or other central line).

- Your TPN will be given using an electronic pump. Please notify your pharmacy immediately if you notice anything unusual in the pumps operation.
- Before administering your daily bag of TPN, it must be allowed to warm to room temperature. Remove it from the refrigerator 2-4 hours before administration. (DO NOT put TPN in the microwave or warm water to warm).
- The TPN must be inspected for cloudiness, particles, or crystals before administration.
- If your TPN solution includes lipids (white and milky fat), you must check the bag before administering for “Cracking”. Your nurse will show you how to look for a slick oily layer on the top of the solution. NEVER infuse a bag that has “cracked”. A brown streak visualized in the solution is another reason that the solution should not be used. If another bag of solution is not available, notify your nurse or pharmacist immediately.

Supplies for TPN Administration

- Room temperature bag of TPN
- Administration tubing
- Filter
- Electronic pump
- Vials containing multivitamins and other additive medication as prescribed
- Syringe and needle
- Alcohol wipe pads

Steps for Infusing TPN

1. Prepare a clean working area.
2. Set out your TPN and allow to warm to room temperature (2-4 hours).

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- You have ringing in your ears during infusion
- Weight gain of more than 5 lbs in a week
- Swelling in your hand and feet
- If your glucose level is above the following: _____
(Not all patients are instructed to check their blood sugar. So, this may not apply to you.)