



## COVID 19 – Resilience of high protein enteral tube feeds and giving sets

December 2020

- For patients requiring mechanical ventilation, non-invasive ventilation, or other forms of oxygen therapy, the provision of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration tailored to the individual is essential to support recovery.  
1,2,3,4.
- During the early stages of the pandemic there was significant pressure on the supply of high protein concentrated tube feeds and enteral pump giving sets used to deliver this nutrition.

### Resilience arrangements for the supply of enteral tube feed and giving sets

- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) and the British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA) have worked together with clinical and dietetic input to identify some products where, if no action was taken, supply pressures may continue to be experienced (set out in table 1). To avoid this, we have worked with suppliers to put in place dedicated resilience arrangements to support continuity of supply.
- Trusts should continue to order all products (whether listed in table 1 or otherwise) as normal through their usual suppliers and commercial arrangements between NHS Trusts and suppliers will not be affected. Trusts should avoid over ordering or stockpiling at a local level.
- As part of the resilience arrangements agreed with suppliers, some products may have shorter remaining shelf life than would normally be expected. Trusts should review their operating procedures to accommodate this and ensure that good stock rotation practices are employed.

### Enteral pumps

- Whilst Trusts should continue to source enteral feeding pumps from their contracted supplier where required, DHSC and NHSEI have secured a volume of enteral pumps and associated giving sets where requirements for additional pumps cannot be met by trust suppliers. Requests for allocation of these devices can be made in line with Regional Allocation Processes. Contact details of regional equipment allocation leads are provided in table 2.

### Further contact or queries

- Any queries relating to the arrangements should be addressed 'for the attention of the Enteral Contracts Manager' at [nhsi.covidcuanalysis@nhs.net](mailto:nhsi.covidcuanalysis@nhs.net)



**Table 1: Resilience arrangements – product list**

Product type	Nutricia	Abbott	Fresenius-Kabi
Giving sets and Enteral Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nutrison Protein Advance</li> <li>- Nutrison Protein Plus</li> <li>- Nutrison Protein Plus Multifibre</li> <li>- Nutrison Concentrated</li> <li>- Nutrison RTH Enteral Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jevity Plus HP</li> <li>- Nepro HP</li> <li>- TwoCal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fresubin Intensive</li> <li>- Fresubin 2kcal</li> <li>- Fresubin 2kcal Fibre</li> <li>- Fresubin HP Energy</li> <li>- Fresubin HP Energy Fibre</li> </ul>
Giving sets	- Floicare giving sets with medication port	- Freego giving sets with medication port	- Amika giving sets with medication port

**Table 2: Regional Equipment Allocation Leads – contact details**

Regions	Leads
North West	Michael Gregory <a href="mailto:drmg@nhs.net">drmg@nhs.net</a>
North East	Lisa Cunnington <a href="mailto:liscunnington@nhs.net">liscunnington@nhs.net</a> Adele Coulthard <a href="mailto:adele.coulthard@nhs.net">adele.coulthard@nhs.net</a> Kevin Peters <a href="mailto:kevin.peters@nhs.net">kevin.peters@nhs.net</a>
East of England	Jayne Lane <a href="mailto:jlane1@nhs.net">jlane1@nhs.net</a> Melanie Iles <a href="mailto:melanie.iles@nhs.net">melanie.iles@nhs.net</a> Ellen Makings <a href="mailto:ellen.makings1@nhs.net">ellen.makings1@nhs.net</a>
South East	Simon Mackenzie <a href="mailto:simon.mackenzie@nhs.net">simon.mackenzie@nhs.net</a>
South West	Phil Gordon <a href="mailto:philgordon@nhs.net">philgordon@nhs.net</a>
Midlands	Nicholas White <a href="mailto:n.white8@nhs.net">n.white8@nhs.net</a>
London	Sacha Syed <a href="mailto:sachasyed@nhs.net">sachasyed@nhs.net</a>

**References:**

1. Van Zanten, A.R.H. et al Nutrition therapy and critical illness: practical guidance for the ICU, post-ICU, and long-term convalescence phases. *Crit Care* 23, 368 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-019-2657-5>
2. Heyland DK et al. The Effect of Higher Protein Dosing in Critically Ill Patients: A Multicenter Registry-Based Randomized Trial: The EFFORT Trial. *J Parenter Enteral Nutr.* 2019 Mar;43(3):326-334.
3. Thibault, R et al. Nutrition of the COVID-19 patient in the intensive care unit (ICU): a practical guidance. *Crit Care* 24, 447 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-020-03159-z>
4. Bear, D. et al Emerging outcome measures for nutrition trials in the critically ill, *Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care*: November 2018 - Volume 21 - Issue 6 - p 417-422