

Ensure Your HPN Patients Live Well: What to Ask Before Discharge

Objectives

1. Instruct the patient with a long-term central line how to support their safety outside the hospital environment.
2. Describe issues of concern that the central line patient may wish to discuss.
3. Discuss barriers that the central line patient may encounter in trying to support their independence.

Questions for the Clinician

1. Have you given your patient written instructions that can be understood and followed through by the patient and/or the caregiver? (Resource: *The A.S.P.E.N. Nutrition Support Patient Education Manual* found at <http://www.nutritioncare.org/>)
2. Have you communicated with the health care team who will be providing care at home?
3. Does your patient know how to care for the catheter and exit site? (Resources found on www.oley.org: *MY HPN Module 2: Catheter-Associated Infections*; *Adult Catheter Care & Infection Prevention Guide*; and *HPN Complication Chart*. Also *The A.S.P.E.N. Nutrition Support Patient Education Manual* found at <http://www.nutritioncare.org/>)
4. Does your patient know how to bathe with the catheter?
5. Does your patient know how to recognize signs and symptoms of catheter compromise? (Resources found on www.oley.org: *MY HPN Module 2: Catheter-Associated Infections*; *HPN Complication Chart*; and *Adult Catheter Care & Infection Prevention Guide*.)
6. Does your patient know who to call for catheter-related problems?
7. Does the patient/caregiver have the dexterity necessary to spike the bag, connect the tubing, dress the exit site, etc.?
8. If the patient will infuse at night, have you discussed the proximity of the patient's bed to the bathroom at home?
9. How independent do you want your patient to be? Have you told your patient about Oley Foundation programs? (Call 800-776-OLEY or click on the "New to Oley" button at www.oley.org)
10. How does your patient feel about living with a central line? Have you evaluated the possible need for counseling and/or referral to an experienced patient? (For referral to an experienced patient call 800-776-OLEY or go to the "Meet Patients" menu on www.oley.org)
11. Have you spoken with your patient about intimacy issues? Have you evaluated the possible need for counseling for this concern?
12. Have you discussed the short- and long-range goals for the therapy, and the possibility of adapting the feeding protocol once the patient adjusts to the therapy? (i.e. shortening infusion time and/or weaning to enteral/oral feeding as tolerated.)
13. What do you consider a successful outcome for the patient with a central line?

Special thanks to Sheila Messina, RN, MA, for preparing this handout.



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Ensure Your HEN Patients Live Well: What to Ask Before Discharge

Objectives

1. Instruct the patient with a long-term G-, J-, or G/J-tube how to support their safety outside the hospital environment.
2. Describe issues of concern that the tube-fed patient may wish to discuss.
3. Discuss barriers that the tube-fed patient may encounter in trying to support their independence.

Questions for the Clinician

1. Have you given your patient written instructions that can be understood and followed through by the patient and/or the caregiver? (Resource: *The A.S.P.E.N. Nutrition Support Patient Education Manual* found at www.nutritioncare.org)
2. If a home care company is involved, have you communicated with the health care team who will be providing care at home?
3. If a home care company is not involved, does the patient/caregiver know how to obtain formula and supplies? (Patients who are paying out of pocket should investigate Oley's Equipment/Supply Exchange at www.oley.org or call 800-776-OLEY.)
4. Does your patient know how to care for the tube and exit site? (Resources on www.oley.org: *Tube Feeding Troubleshooting Guide* and "Tube Feeding Tips" page in the "Resources" menu. Also *The A.S.P.E.N. Nutrition Support Patient Education Manual* found at www.nutritioncare.org)
5. Does your patient know how to bathe with the tube?
6. Does your patient know how to recognize symptoms of a tube feeding complication? (*Tube Feeding Troubleshooting Guide* found in the "Resources" menu at www.oley.org)
7. Does your patient know who to call for tube-related problems?
8. Does the patient/caregiver have the dexterity necessary to connect the tubing, open formula containers, bolus feed with a syringe, etc.?
9. If the patient will tube feed at night, have you asked about the proximity of the patient's bed to the bathroom at home?
10. How independent do you want your patient to be? Have you told your patient about Oley Foundation programs? (Call 800-776-OLEY or click on the "New to Oley" button at www.oley.org)
11. How does your patient feel about living with a tube? Have you evaluated the possible need for counseling and/or referral to an experienced patient? (For referral to an experienced patient call 800-776-OLEY or go to the "Meet Patients" menu on www.oley.org)
12. Have you spoken with your patient about intimacy issues? Have you evaluated the possible need for counseling for this concern?
13. Have you discussed the short range and long range goals for the therapy, and the possibility of adapting the feeding protocol once the patient adjusts to the therapy? (i.e. shortening feeding times and reducing their frequencies and/or weaning as tolerated.)
14. What do you consider a successful outcome for the patient with a feeding tube?

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