

Parenteral Nutrition (PN) – Activating the PN Bag

Parenteral nutrition (PN) provides nutrients through your intravenous (IV) line when you are not able to eat food by mouth. The PN contains many types of healthy nutrients, vitamins, and electrolytes that your body needs. Your healthcare provider will decide how long you will need PN.

The PN comes in a premixed divided sealed bag that contains white lipids (fat) in the top section and clear dextrose (sugar) and amino acids (protein) in the bottom section as well as other important nutrients. Vitamins and other medicines may need to be added to the bag right before you are ready to use it. **Do not use** the PN bag if the PN solution is cloudy, the bag is leaking, or the lipids have yellow streaks.

Once both compartments are mixed, the bag will look milky and should not have any brown spots or streaks in the bag. If you see brown spots or streaks, do not use the bag and call Home+ Home Infusion.

Store the PN bags on a clean surface away from food in the refrigerator at a temperature between 36-46°F. Stack no more than 3 PN bags. Remove the PN bag and place on a clean surface about 2-3 hours before your infusion. This lets the bag warm naturally to room temperature. **Do not** place in sunlight, use the microwave, or place in hot or warm water.

Follow these instructions to set up the PN:

1. Prepare a clean work area. A clean flat surface such as a table, countertop, or tray works well.
2. Wash your hands well using a liquid soap. Be sure to wash all parts of your hands including the top and bottom, between fingers, and under fingernails. Use a paper towel to dry your hands. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if no soap and water are available.

Instructions to set up the PN (continued)

3. Supplies needed:

- PN bag (check for correct name, drug, dose, and discard date)
- Additives (vitamins, electrolytes, trace elements, medicines)
- Pump
- Pump tubing (CADD High Volume Administration Set with 1.2 micron filter)
- Backpack
- Batteries
- Saline
- Heparin (if needed)
- Syringe(s)
- Syringe needle(s)
- Sharps container
- Alcohol pads
- Green caps
- Gloves
- Other supplies: _____

4. The PN bag has two ports on the top of the bag (you won't be using).
5. With the writing on the bag facing up you will notice there are three ports on the bottom:
 - the left port is for adding vitamins or other medicine your doctor has ordered
 - the middle is for connecting the spike from the pump tubing
 - the right is used by the pharmacy to fill the PN bag (you won't be using)
6. Place your thumb and forefinger on the yellow rubber strip that separates the two sections of the bag and peel it away towards the right. Throw away the rubber strip and plastic rod. The contents of the two sections will begin mixing together. Gently knead the bag with your hands to mix it well.
7. If you have been instructed to add other medicine to the PN this would be the time to do so. Please refer to the **"Adding Medicines"** handout. Any syringes with needles should be placed in a sharps container.
8. Gently knead the bag using your hands to mix the medicine.
9. Follow the instructions in the patient booklet and on the **"CADD™-Solis VIP Pump Guide"** handout.
10. Open the pump tubing package and remove the paper tabs.
11. Close the clamp on the tubing.
12. Remove the plastic tab on the middle port of the PN bag by turning it to the left.
13. Remove the cover on the spike end of the pump tubing.
14. Insert the spike into the middle port by twisting and pushing in until the spike is tightly secured.

15. Remove the blue clip on the cassette. Attach the cassette to the infusion pump. Refer to the instruction booklet/package insert.
16. **Make sure the tubing is disconnected from the patient before priming.**
17. With the filter hanging straight down, prime the tubing until the air in the tubing and filter are gone and replaced by the contents from the PN bag.
18. Scrub the blue cap on your PICC line with an alcohol wipe for 15-30 seconds.
19. Attach a primed saline syringe and flush the PICC line using a push/pause method. Remove the syringe.
20. Scrub the blue cap on your PICC line with an alcohol wipe for 15-30 seconds.
21. Attach the primed pump tubing to your PICC line.
22. Place the pump and PN bag in the backpack as instructed.
23. Start the pump.
24. Stop the pump when your infusion is complete. Clamp the tubing and remove from the PICC line. Throw the tubing and bag in the household trash after removing the labels.
25. Scrub the blue cap on your PICC line with an alcohol wipe for 15-30 seconds. Attach a primed saline syringe and flush the PICC line using a push/pause method. Remove the syringe. Attach a green disinfecting cap on the end of the blue cap.
26. The amount of time it takes to infuse depends on your prescription. A typical PN can infuse over 12-24 hours.

For questions or concerns, please call Regional Home+ Home Infusion at (605) 755-1150.