

Parenteral Nutrition (PN) – Dual Chamber Bag

Parenteral nutrition (PN) provides nutrients through your intravenous (IV) line when you are not able to eat food by mouth. The PN has 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 sealed separated bag that has dextrose (sugar) on the left side and amino acids (protein) on the right side. This handout will explain how to mix the two chambers together and how to add lipids (fat) to the premixed bag. Your home infusion nurse or pharmacist will also show you how to prepare the bag.

The dual chamber bag does not need to be refrigerated. It is best to store the bags and supplies away from sunlight, in a clean, safe place and away from children and pets.

Follow these instructions when setting 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 sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
3. Supplies needed:
 - PN bag (check for correct name, drug, dose, and discard date)
 - Transfer tubing
 - Additives (fat, vitamins, electrolytes, trace elements, medications)
 - Syringe(s)
 - Syringe needle(s)
 - Sharps container
 - Alcohol pads

Refer to www.clinimix.com for a video demonstration on how to prepare the PN bag. Click on the yellow box on the right “Activation Video”.

4. Unwrap the outer package of the PN bag by tearing the top slit from the top and removing the inside bag. You might see some moisture on the inside of the bag. This is normal and occurs when the bag was sterilized.

5. Look to see that the middle seal between the two chamber sides is sealed. Gently press on each side to make sure there are no leaks. The liquid in the chambers should not be cloudy, discolored, or have particles floating in it. If you have any concerns do not use the bag and call the home infusion office.
6. Place the bag on the clean flat surface. The label should be facing up, the ports will be at the top, and the hanger end of the bag will be located closest to you. Grasp the hanger end of the bag on both sides and roll up the bag. This will break the seal and allow the contents in both chambers to mix. Gently rotate the bag from side-to-side mixing the contents together. Look for any leaks.
 - * Use clean technique when preparing the lipid bag.
 - * Do not touch any of the uncovered tip ports with your hands.
 - * Remove the protective cap from the lipid bag.
 - * Close the clamp on the transfer set.
 - * Remove the protector from the transfer spike.
 - * Hold the lipid bag with the port side up.
 - * Insert the spike into the lipid bag by twisting and pushing it into the diaphragm.
 - * Twist off the blue protector on the PN bag (longest port nearest to the bag edge).
 - * Remove the protector from the opposite end of the transfer set spike and insert into this port.
 - * Lift the lipid bag above the PN bag and release the clamp to allow gravity to transfer it into the bag.
 - * You may find it helpful to hang the lipid bag from the IV pole if available.
 - * When the transfer is complete, fold the port up and place a clamp on it.
 - * Remove the spike and throw the used lipid bag in the household trash.
 - * Mix all contents in the bag thoroughly by gently rotating the bag from side-to-side and look for leaks.
7. If you have been instructed to add other additives to the PN this would be the time to do so. Please refer to the handouts provided at your teach visit.
8. Follow the instructions on the handout you were given for the “CADD™-Solis VIP Pump Guide.” You will choose to either hang the PN bag on the IV pole or place in the backpack to begin your infusion. The administration port (middle port) on the PN bag will be used to attach the administration set/cassette spike.
9. Place all used PN and lipid bags and tubing in the household trash. Any needles should be placed in a sharps container.

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